

DYNAMICS OF THE MAGNETIZED CHROMOSPHERE

SIRAJ HASAN
Indian Institute of Astrophysics
Bangalore

Indo-Chinese Workshop
November 7-11, 2005

BACKGROUND

The *quiet* solar atmosphere consists of *magnetic* and non-magnetic regions. Although magnetic fields are found everywhere on the Sun they are dynamically unimportant in the interior of supergranulation cells.

Strong magnetic elements occur at the cell boundaries and constitute the *magnetic network*. Vertical tubes in pressure equilibrium with the outside medium expand upward to conserve magnetic flux. From a low filling factor (< 1%) in the photosphere the tubes spread to 15% in the layers of formation of the emission features in the H and lines of ionized calcium (at a height of 1 Mm) and to 100% in the so-called *magnetic canopy*.

The remaining quiet Sun outside the network is called the *internetwork*, sometimes also referred to as cell interior.

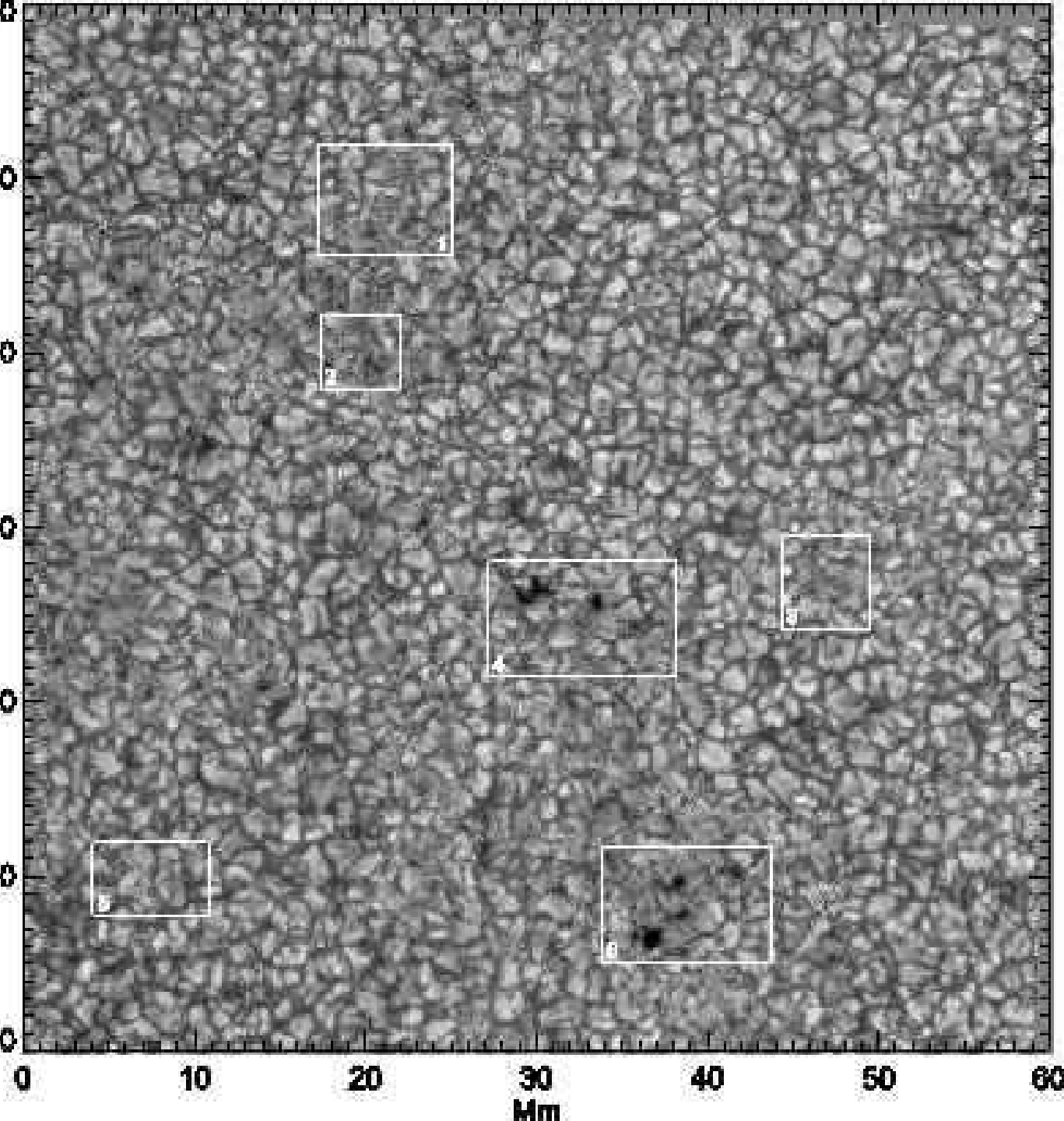
MAGNETIC NETWORK

The magnetic network consists of vertical magnetic fields clumped into elements or flux tubes with field strengths in the kilogauss range and diameters of the order of 100 km (e.g. Frazer & Stenflo) at the *footpoints* located in the photosphere (although Berger et al. 2004 suggest that the scenario may be more complex).

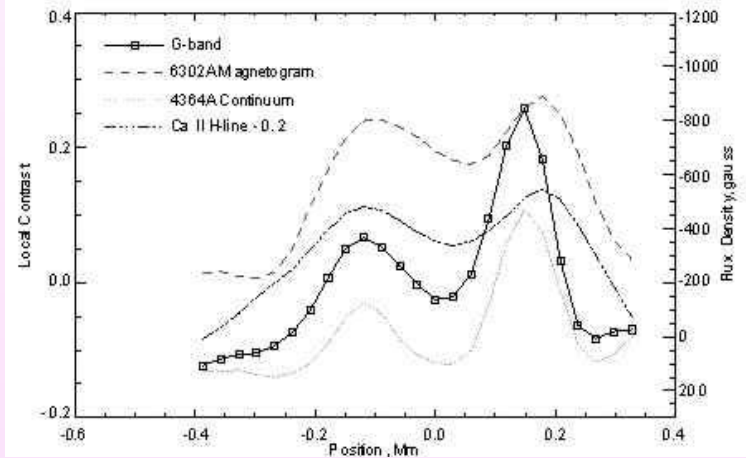
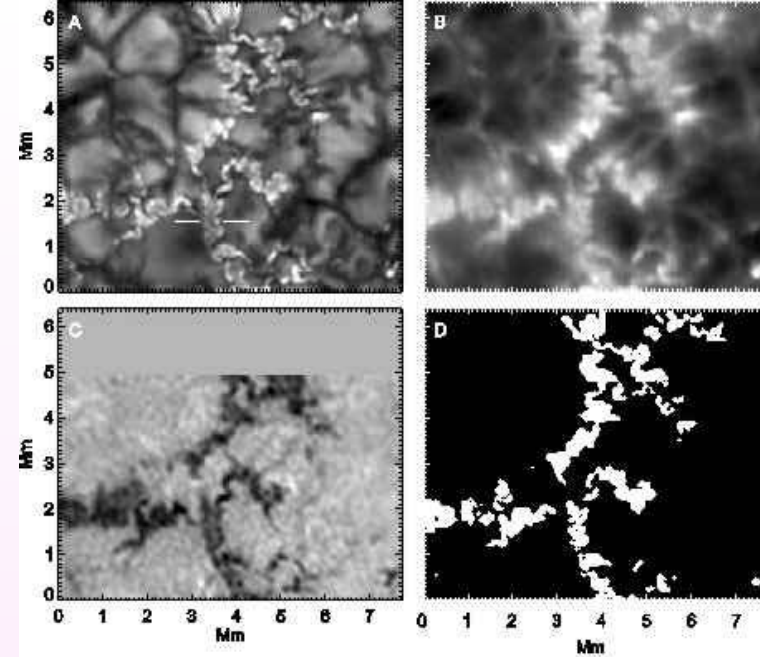
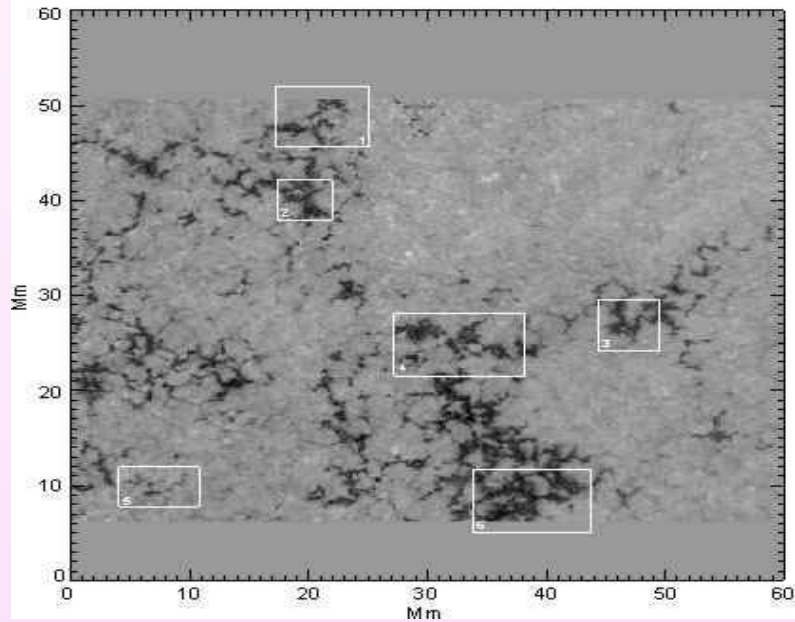
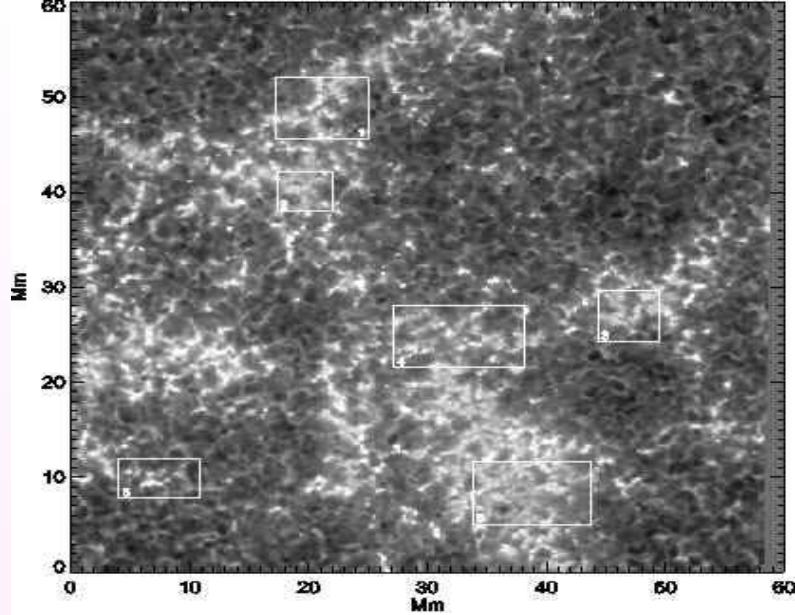
Magnetic elements can be identified with *bright points* in *G-band* (4305 Å) images (e.g. Muller 1994, Berger et al. 1995, 1998, 2004) which are co-spatial with Ca II and TRACE (UV) structures (Rutten 1999).

High resolution observations suggest that these network bright points (NBPs), located in intergranular lanes, are in a *highly dynamical state*, due to the buffeting effect of random convective motions (e.g. Muller et al. 1994; Berger & Title 1996).

A histogram of the velocities of NBPs shows a mean speed of 1.4 km s^{-1} but there were several instances of motions with speeds as high as 3 km s^{-1} .

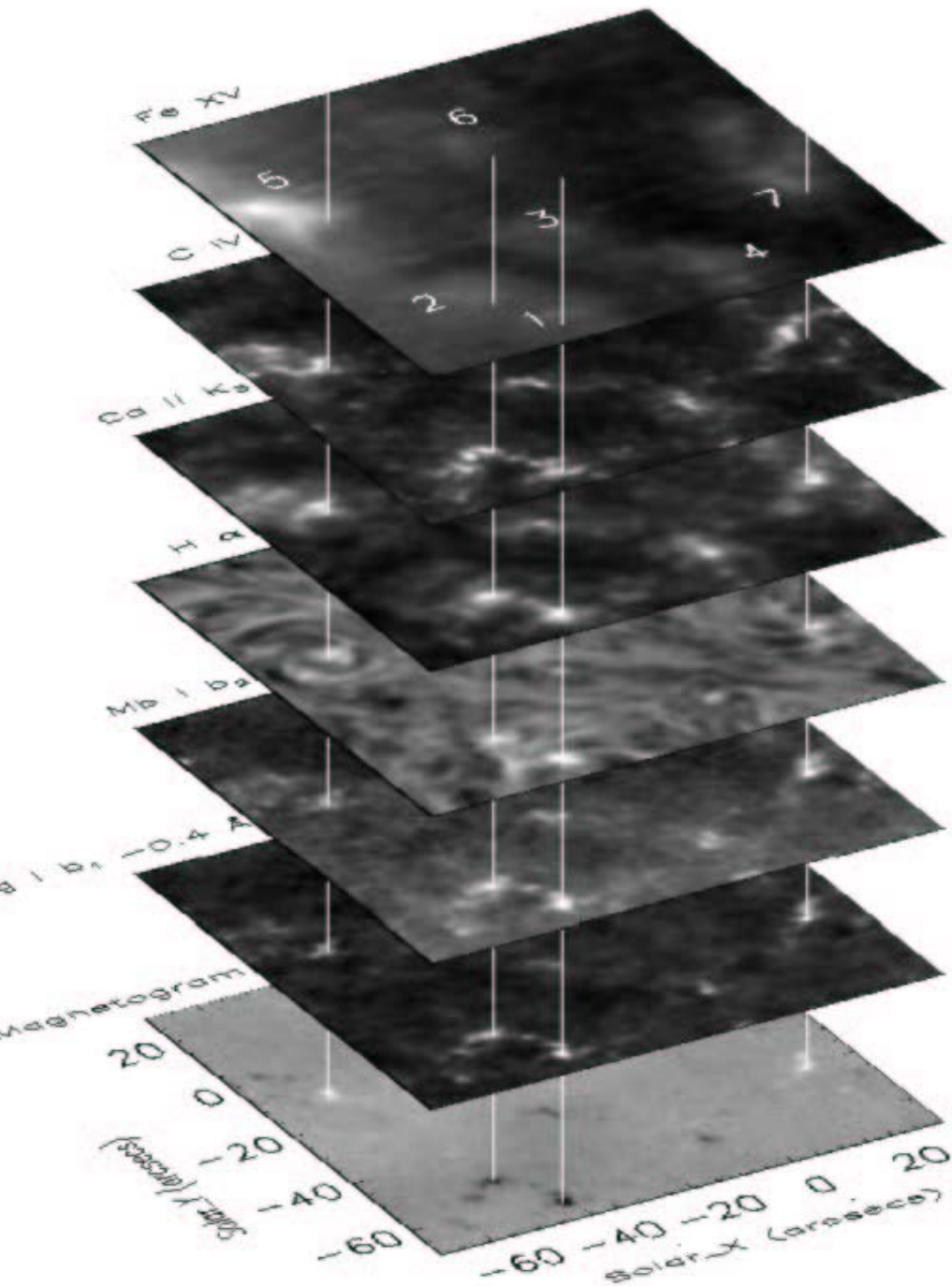


Remnant AR 1036
at heliographic co-
ordinates S7 E4
($\mu = 0.99$) taken on
May 25, 2003 in the
436.4 nm G-band
continuum band-
pass with the
Swedish 1-m Solar
Telescope on La
Palma (Berger et al
2004).



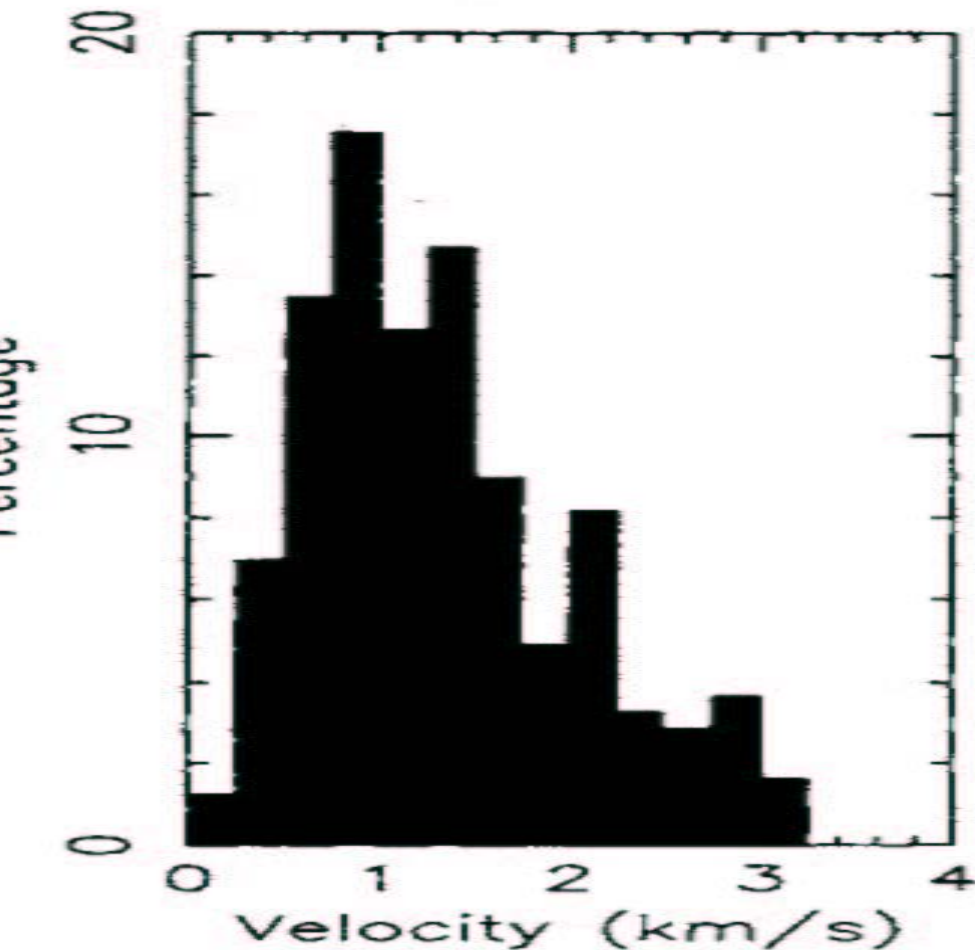
Dominant AR 10365 at heliographic S7 E4 ($\mu = 0.99$)
 Top: Ca II (396.8 nm) H-line bandpass; Bottom: SOUP
 (Solar Optical Universal Polarimeter) Fe I 630.5 nm
 magnetogram (Berger et al. 2004)

Top: Enlargement of Box 1 from a) G-band filtergram,
 b) Ca II H-line filtergram, c) Fe I 630.25 magneto-gram
 d) Binary mask of the G-band emission in panel a).
 Bottom: Intensity plot along the white lines shown in

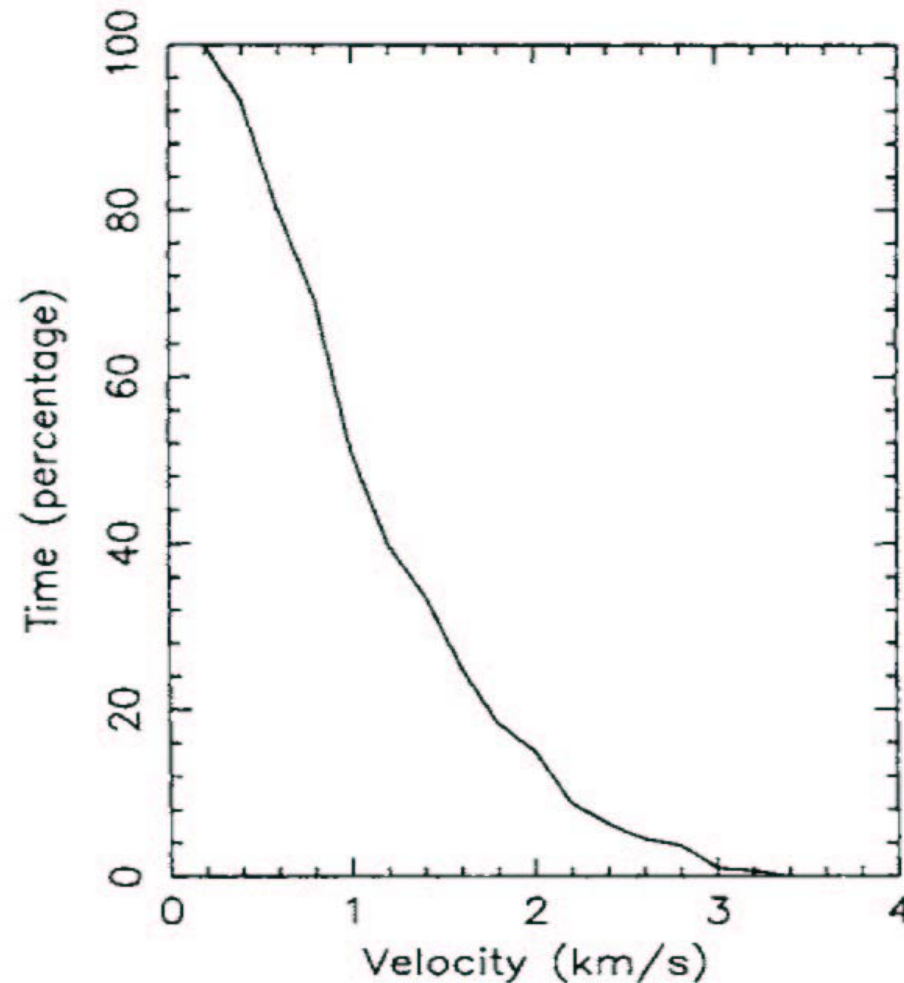


Time averaged data of a 100" x 100" field of view in the corona (EIT 284Å), transition region (CIV 1500Å) and the chromosphere. The bottom plot is the corresponding magnetogram. The vertical lines show four stable NBFs. The chromospheric NBFs have a one to one spatial correlation with the photospheric magnetic field and exist throughout the transition region and the corona (after McAteer et al. 2003)

HISTOGRAM OF VELOCITIES COMPUTED ALONG NETWORK TRAJECTORIES (AFTER MULLER '94)



Calculation for 245 values: Mean is 1.3 km s^{-1} , standard deviation is 0.70 km s^{-1}



Percentage of times a given granule moves faster than a given velocity

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

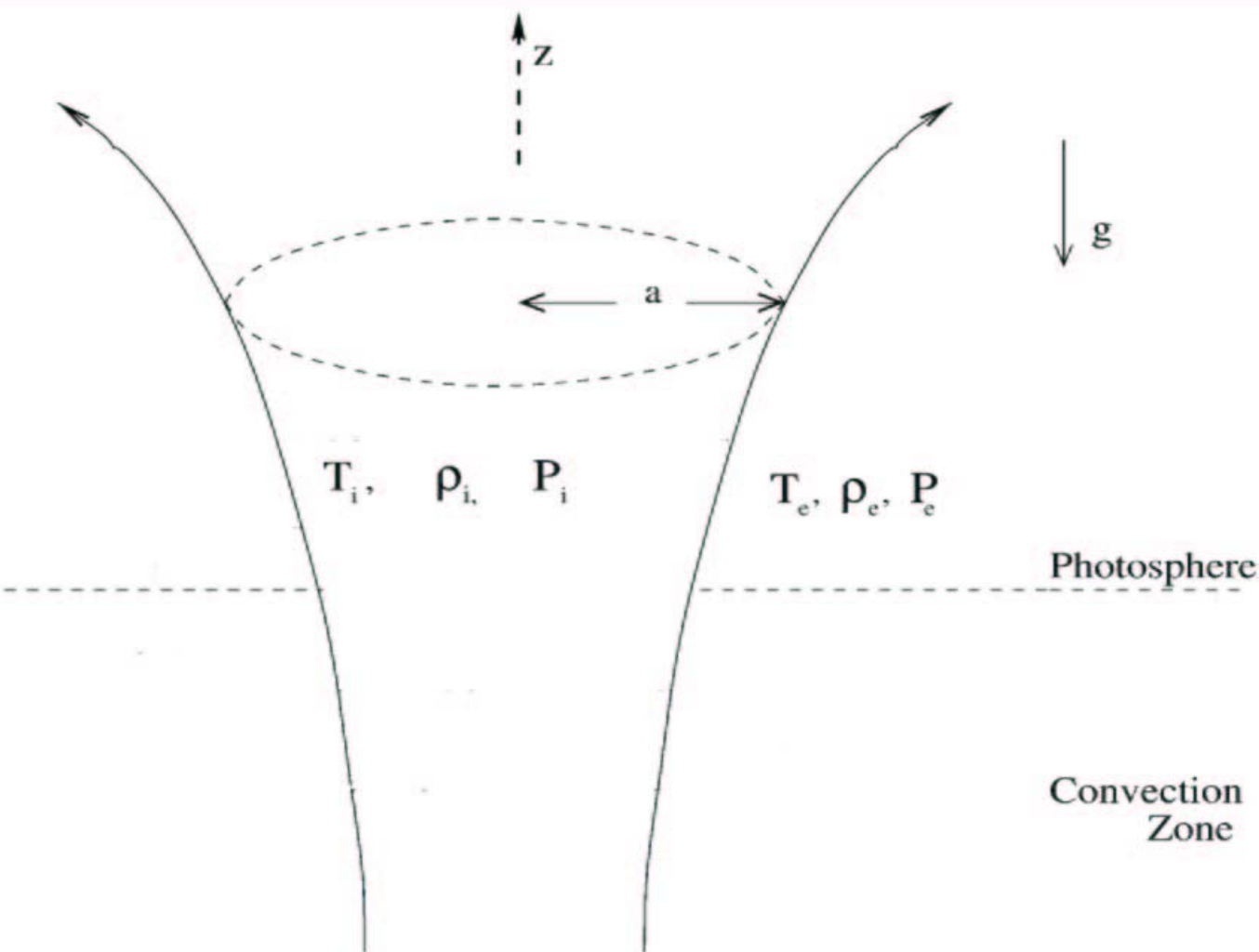
The magnetic field in the network can be idealized in terms of isolated vertical flux tubes which fan out with height, due to the decrease in pressure with height. A flux tube can support various modes (e.g. *kink* or *transverse*, *sausage* or *longitudinal*, *torsional Alfvén* waves etc).

The earliest studies on MHD wave excitation used extensions of the *Lighthill mechanism*. More recently several studies have examined the generation of longitudinal and transverse waves in a flux tube through turbulent motions in the convection zone.

An alternative scenario, based on the observations of Muller (1994) is that the excitation of transverse (kink) waves occurs through the **footpoint motions of magnetic elements** (e.g. Choudhuri et al. 1999; Hasan & Kalkofen 1999). Rapid motions with velocities larger than 100 km s^{-1} can excite transverse oscillations which carry adequate energy for coronal heating.

Many numerical simulations of dynamical effects associated with the interaction of magnetic fields and convection have been carried out (e.g. Nordlund & Stein 1989, 1990; Nordlund et al. 1992; Steiner et al. 1998, Vögeler & Schüssler 2003; Schüssler et al. 2003; Vögeler et al. 2005). The simulations of Steiner et al. clearly show the bending of flux sheath through the buffeting action of granules. This interaction can **excite MHD oscillations in the magnetic elements** which can propagate upwards and heat the chromosphere and corona (Spruit 1981; Ulmschneider et al. 1999).

FLUX TUBE IN EQUILIBRIUM WITH THE AMBIENT MEDIUM



Pressure balance:

$$p_i + B^2/8\pi = p_e$$

**Hydrostatic
Equilibrium:**

(isothermal medium)

$$p = p_0 e^{-z/H}$$

$$B = B_0 e^{-z/2H}$$

Flux conservation

$$A = A_0 e^{z/2H}$$

Flux tube extending vertically through the photo-
sphere and convection zone

ENERGY SOURCE FOR HEATING NBPs

Kink waves generated inside flux tubes by the **buffeting action granules** (Choudhuri et al 1993; Hasan & Kalkofen 1999) or turbulent motions (Huang, Musielak & Ulmschneider 1995);

Longitudinal waves generated either by **pressure fluctuations** inside flux tubes (Ulmschneider et al. 1991); or through nonlinear conversion of kink waves (Hasan et al. 2003);

Torsional (Alfvén) waves generated inside flux tubes (Nob & Musielak & Ulmschneider 2004);

Acoustic waves, generated in the field-free atmosphere surrounding the flux tubes, that can penetrate into the tubes;

Acoustic-like waves generated at the interface of flux tubes and the ambient medium that also penetrate into the flux tubes.

MODEL OF A NETWORK ELEMENT

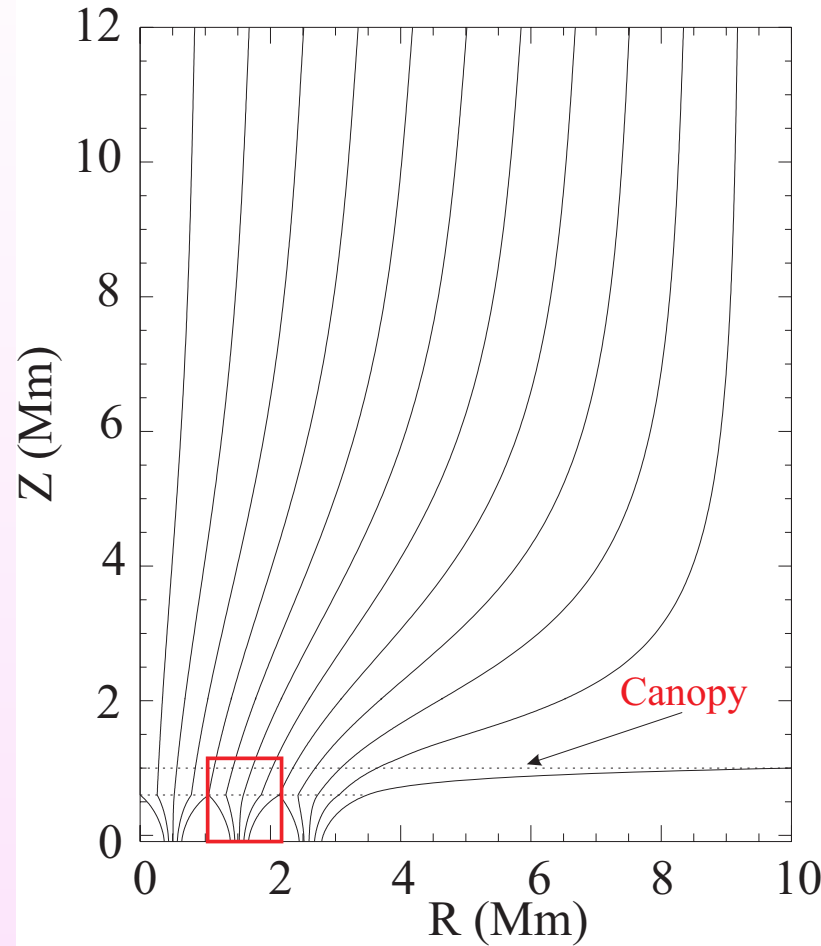
The network field structure consists of three distinct regions:

Photospheric region up to about 600 km, consisting of individual flux tubes, with a typical diameter of about 100 km in the low photosphere. The flux tubes are rooted in intergranular lanes and are separated from one another by about the diameter of a granule (~ 1000 km). The tubes expand upward and merge with their neighbours at a height of about 600 km;

Lower chromosphere (600-1000 km) where the merged network flux element expands laterally over the surrounding supergranular cell centre and overlying field free chromosphere;

Upper chromosphere (1000-12000 km), the fully merged magnetic field fills the available volume. At larger heights the field expands primarily in the vertical direction and becomes practically uniform. However, at lower heights (1000-2000 km), the field strength varies significantly with horizontal position and the field strength above the tubes is much larger than that above the supergranular cell centre.

MODEL OF A NETWORK ELEMENT

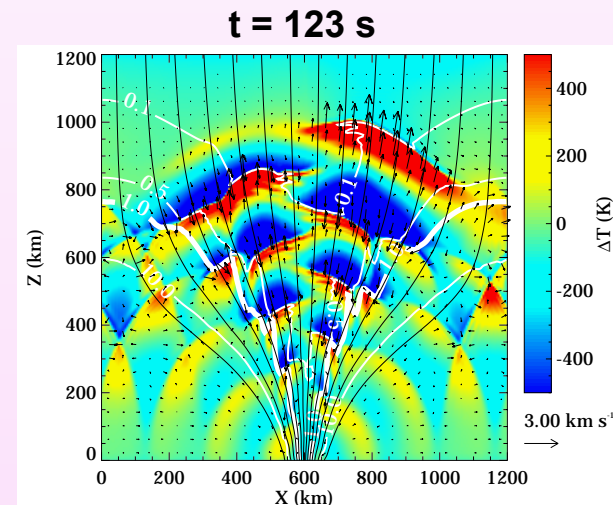
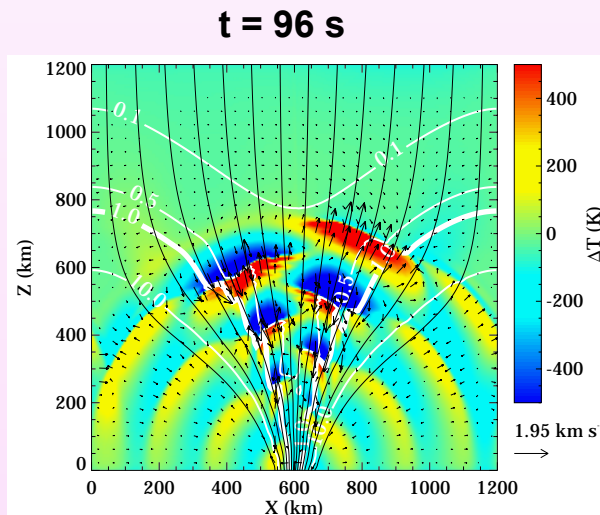
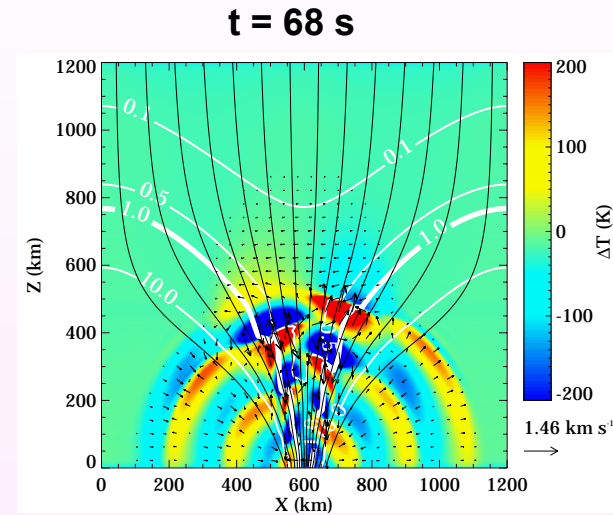
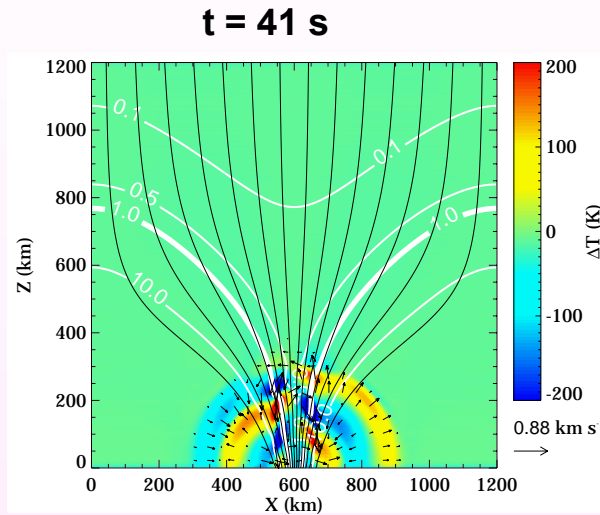


network element (typical flux tube $\sim 3 \cdot 10^{19}$ Mx) as a collection of smaller flux tubes spatially separated from each other in the photosphere. Neighbouring tubes within the network element merge into a monolithic structure at a height of about 600 km. The outer edge of this tube forms the *magnetic canopy*. A second merging occurs when neighbouring network elements come together at the canopy height (after Cranmer and van Ballegoijen 2004).

PARAMETERS ON THE TUBE AXIS & AMBIENT MEDIUM

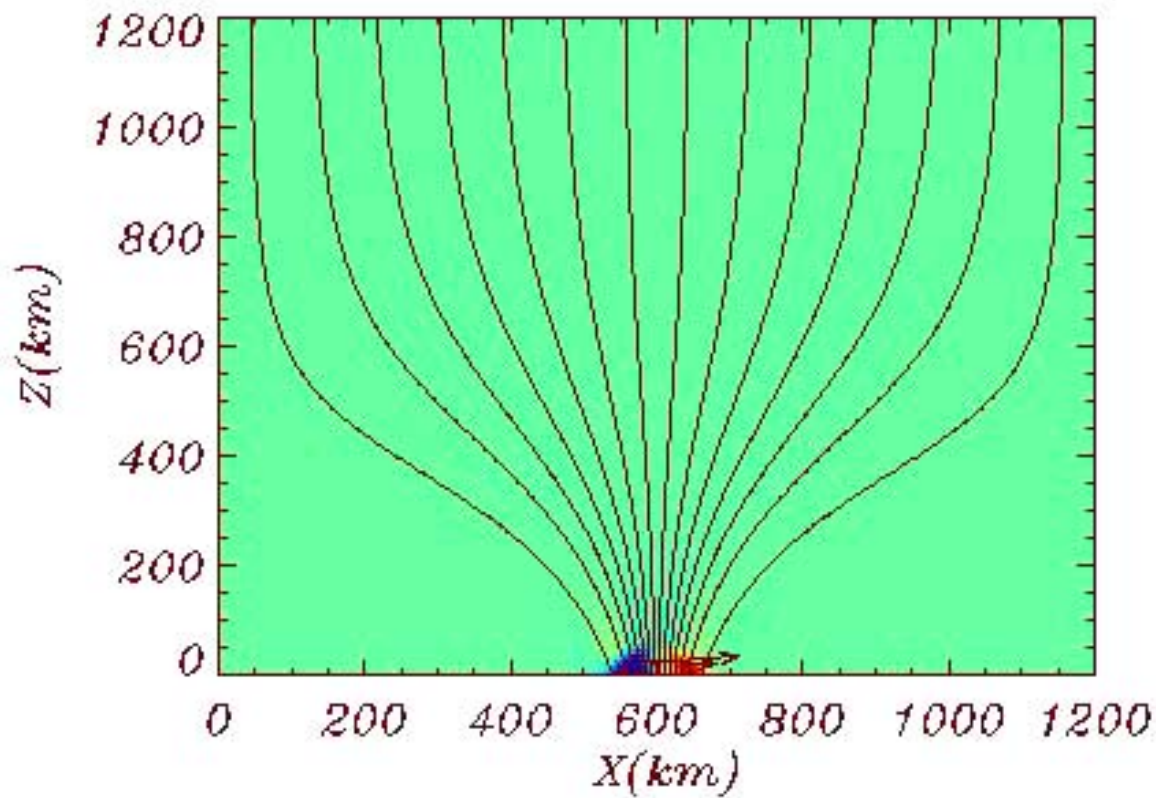
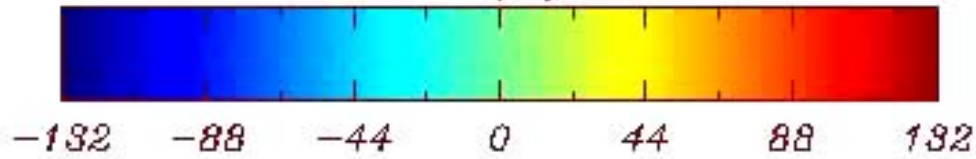
Variable	Tube Axis		Ambient Medium	
	Base	Top	Base	Top
Temperature	4800 K	8200 K	4800 K	8200 K
Sound speed	7.1 km s ⁻¹	12 km s ⁻¹	7.1 km s ⁻¹	12 km s ⁻¹
Alfvén speed	11 km s ⁻¹	92 km s ⁻¹	0.3 km s ⁻¹	52 km s ⁻¹
Magnetic field	1400 G	100 G	70 G	100 G
β (ratio of gas to magnetic pressure)	0.5	0.02	600	0.06

Flow pattern and Temperature perturbation: *Periodic excitation*



Flow pattern (arrows) and ΔT at a) 41 s, b) 68 s, c) 96 s and d) 123 s in a network element due to a horizontal periodic motion at the lower boundary with an amplitude of 750 m s⁻¹ and a wave period $P=24$ s. Thin black curves denote the field lines and white curves are contours of constant β – the thick white curve corresponds to $\beta=1.0$.

$\Delta T(K)$

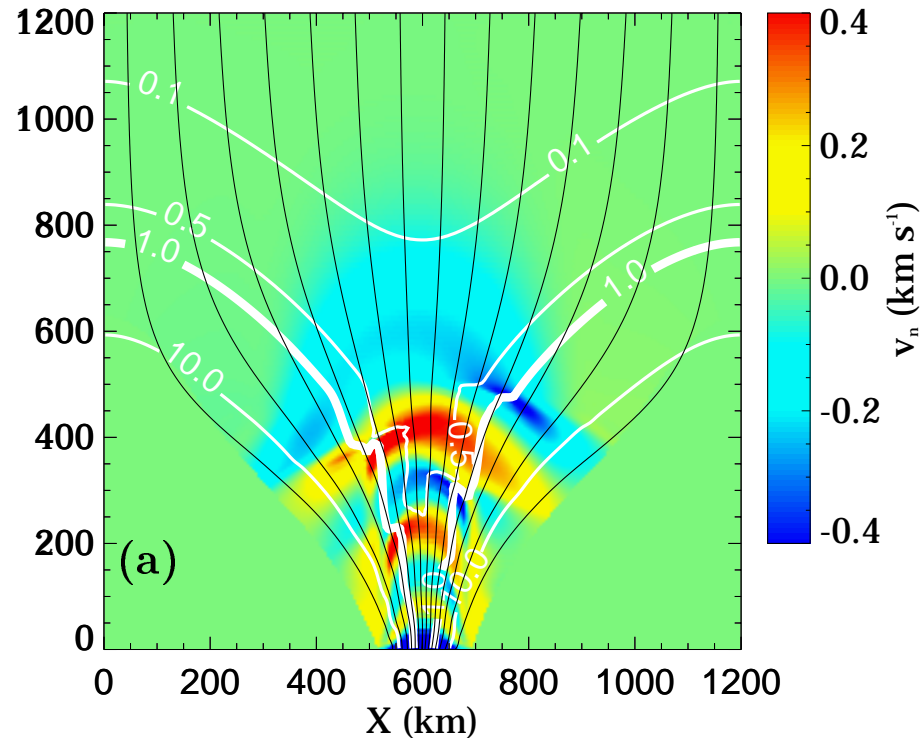


Time=6(s)

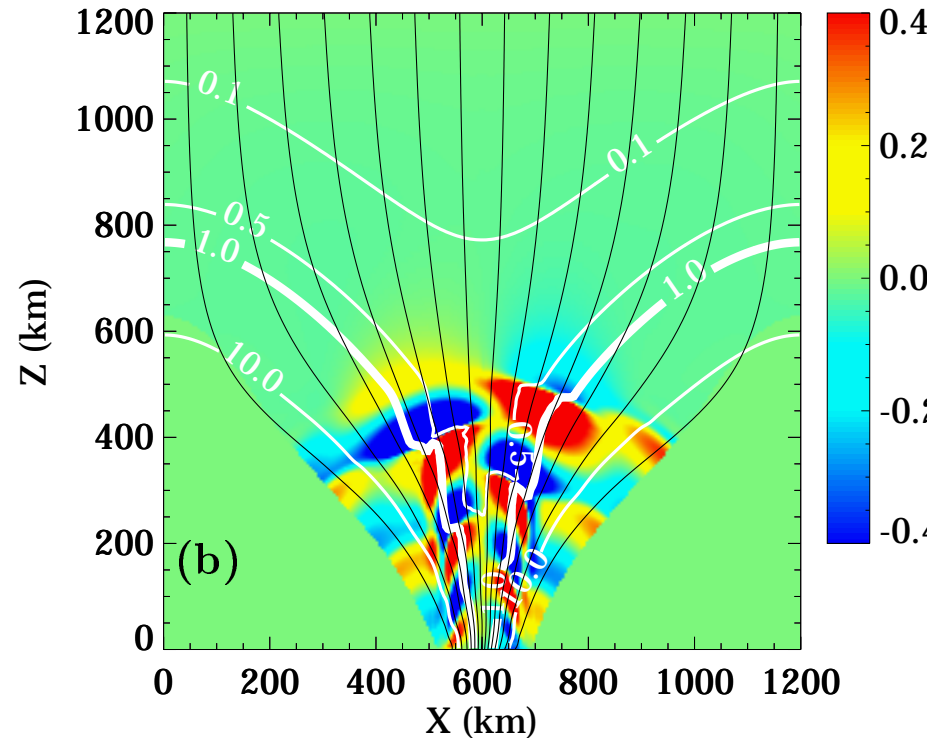
0.41 km s^{-1}
→

VELOCITY COMPONENTS IN A NETWORK ELEMENT

$t = 68 \text{ s}$



$t = 68 \text{ s}$



Velocity components a) V_n , normal to the field, and b) V_s , along the field at $t = 68 \text{ s}$ in a network element due to a horizontal motion at the lower boundary with an amplitude of 10 m s^{-1} and a period of $P = 24 \text{ s}$. The thin black curves are the magnetic field lines and the white curves denote contours of constant β , corresponding to $\beta=0.1$, 0.5 , 1.0 (thick curve) and 10 .

Discussion

Horizontal motion of the flux tube at the lower boundary a **source of acoustic waves at the interface**, and in the ambient medium they propagate isotropically.

Near the axis, fast modes propagating upwards at the local Alfvén speed are generated. The **fast mode shows an asymmetry in propagation** since the Alfvén speed is large on the axis and decreases horizontally. The increase in separation in the vertical direction between the color peaks shows the increase in wave-length with height.

Away from the axis (where $\beta \geq 1$), the **compressions and decompressions of the gas generate acoustic like modes** (180° out of phase on opposite sides of the tube axis) that are guided along the field lines.

These **waves steepen** with height and heat the upper atmosphere of the flux tube.

SUMMARY

This investigation marks the beginning of recent attempts to study the dynamics of the magnetic network that go beyond the *1-D thin tube approximation* and use a more realistic treatment that is representative of the field structure in the network.

Impulsive transverse driving motions at the lower boundary lead to pressure perturbations in the field free medium at the tube interface. This is an efficient mechanism for generating vortical motions and longitudinal pulses in the tube. The observational signature associated with vortex formation would be the prediction of simultaneous upward and downwards motions on opposite sides of flux tubes

Periodic motions at the lower boundary generate fast and slow waves inside the flux tube. Modes generated in the $\beta > 1$ region of the tube, undergo mode conversion as they propagate upwards.

A new feature of this work is the identification of an effective mechanism for *acoustic wave emission at the tube edge*. This can have interesting consequences as these waves, propagating isotropically will impinge on neighbouring flux tubes and excite waves in them.

An efficient method has been demonstrated by which transverse motions are transferred into longitudinal ones ----- the latter steepen with height, form shocks and heat the chromosphere.

THANK YOU