

K00LS-IFUの広波長域分光観測で迫る ポストフレアループを伴う白色光フレアの 時間発展

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About this research

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Article Contents

Abstract

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Observations and data reduction
- 3 Analysis and results
- 4 Discussion
- 5 Summary and future work
- Acknowledgments

JOURNAL ARTICLE

Time evolution of a white-light flare accompanied by probable postflare loops on the M-type dwarf EV Lacertae

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Publications of the Astronomical Society of Japan, psaf080, <https://doi-org.kyoto-u.idm.oclc.org/10.1093/pasj/psaf080>

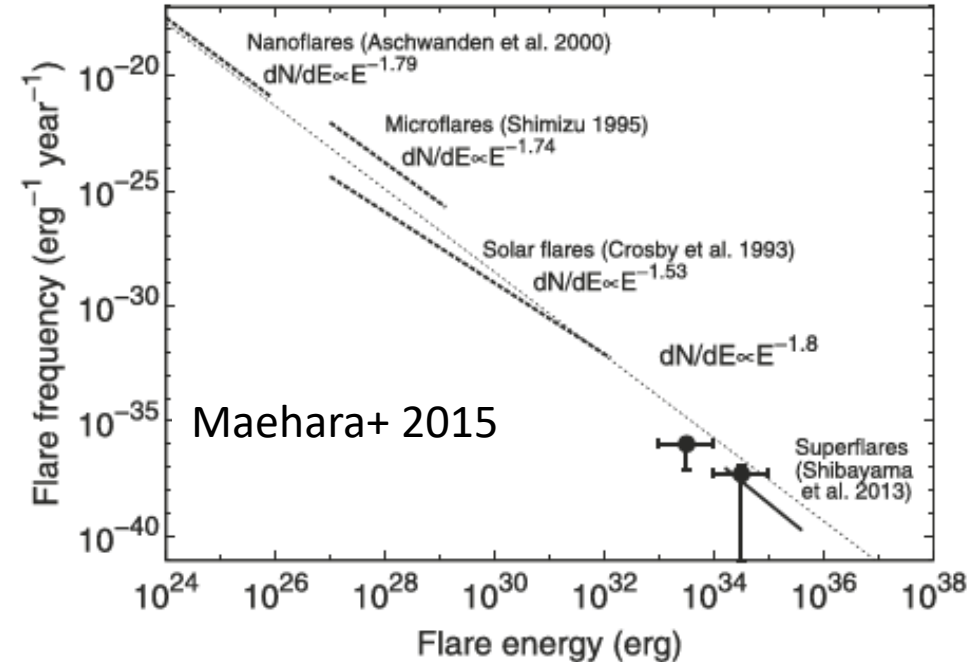
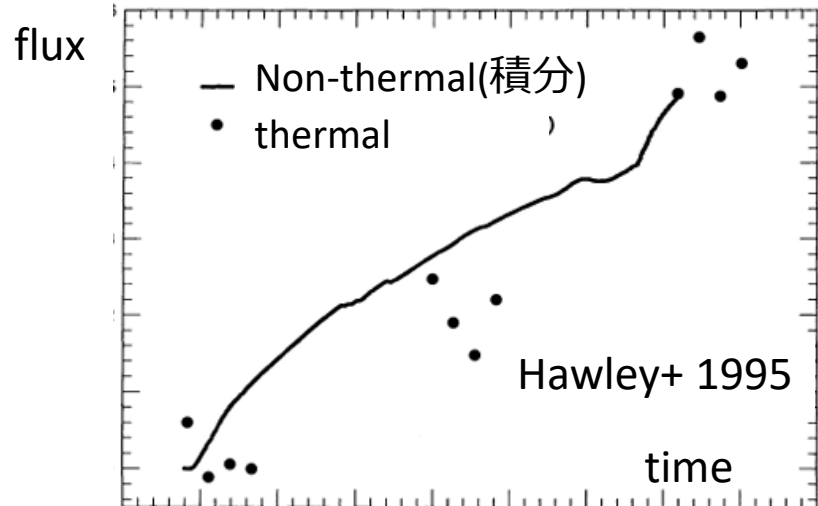
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2025/09/04

What is flares?

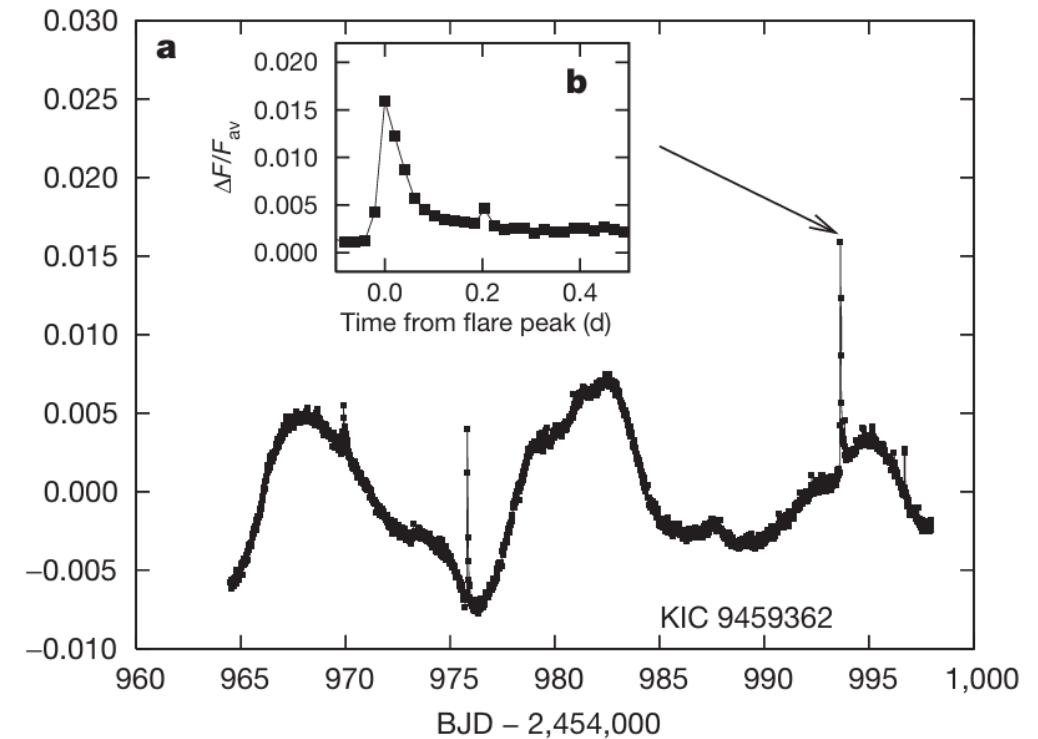
- ◆ Sudden explosion events which occur on the surface of the Sun/stars
- ◆ Some similar features suggests that solar and stellar flares occur via the same physical processes.
e.g. Flare Frequency Distributions(in 野上さん's talk)⇒

Neupert effect ($F_{\text{non-thermal}} \propto \frac{dF_{\text{thermal}}}{dt}$) ⇐



White-light flares

- ◆ Accompanied by enhanced NUV/optical continuum radiation
- ◆ Rare event on the Sun, but often occur on other stars, especially on young M-type stars.
- ◆ Well correlated with hard X-ray emission spatially & temporally (e.g. Watanabe+ 2010)
➡ high-energy electron is thought to be the origin of WLF, but process has not been clarified.

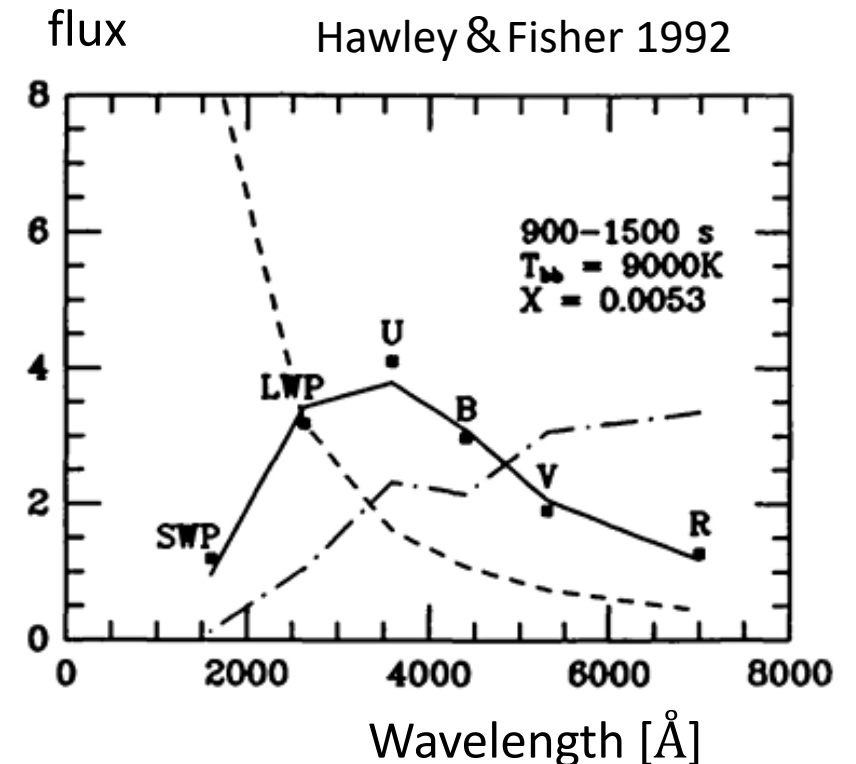


Maehara+ 2012

SED of white-light flares

◆ White-light continuum (of optical) is well explained with **blackbody spectrum at $\sim 10^4$ K** (e.g., Hawley & Fisher 1992)

➡ A lot of studies about stellar flares have estimated the radiative energy under the assumption that white-light continuum is blackbody at $\sim 10^4$ K. (Shibayama+ 2013)



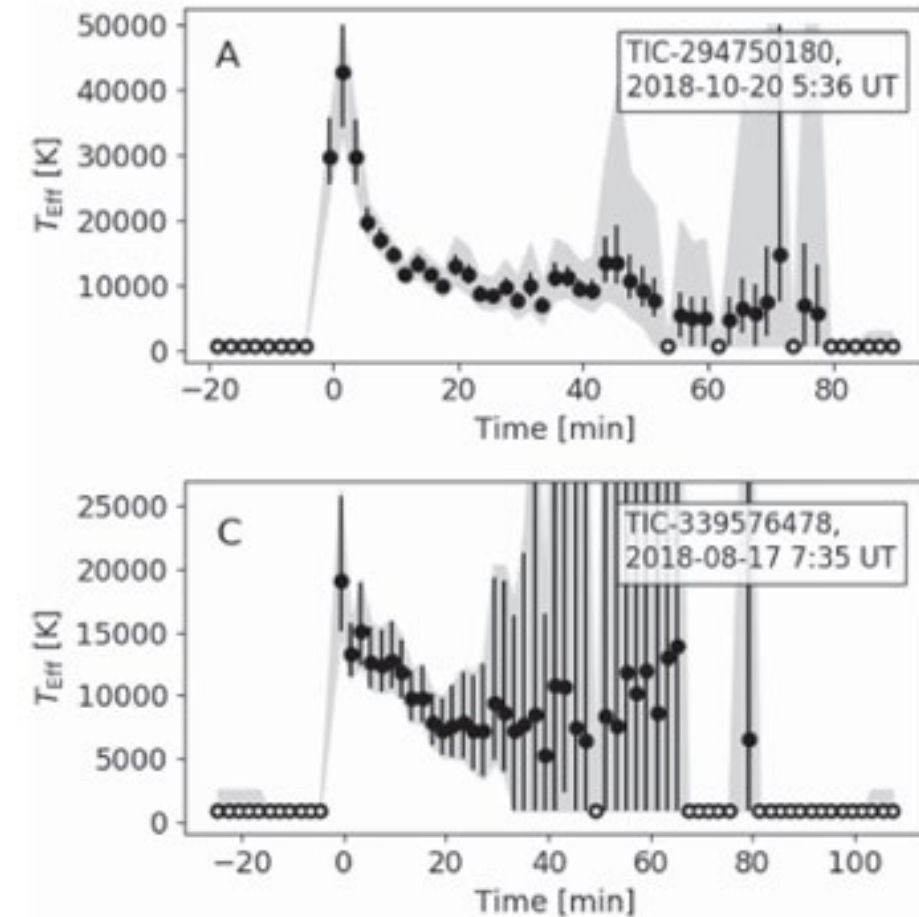
SED of white-light flares

◆ Some previous studies (e.g. Howard+ 2020, Bicz+ 2025)

indicated that the rapid decrease of radiative temperature (in several minutes) with multi-color photometry.

◆ However, the results of these two papers include large uncertainty because

1. Multi-color photometry cannot divide some emission lines (e.g. H α) and optical continuum,
2. TESS has redder wavelength range (6000-10000 Å) >> less sensitive to high temperature



Howard + 2020

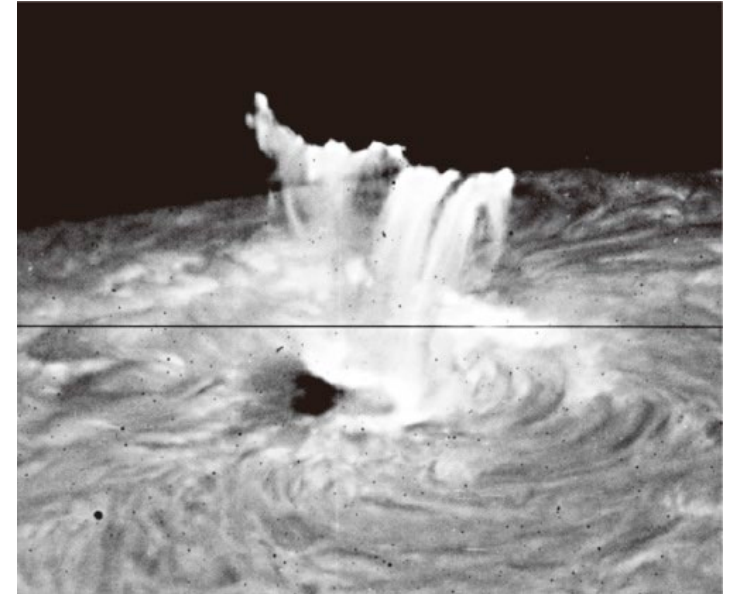
Question

- How accurate is the blackbody assumption?
- How different are the energy calculated with fixed temperature ($\sim 10^4$ K) and changing temperature?

➤ We analyze high-time-cadence & optical spectroscopic data
but the numbers of such observations is still small.

Postflare loops

- Postflare loops are one of the components of flares.
- Flare occurs.
 - ➡ Soft X-ray loops ($\sim 10^7$ K) form and cool via radiation.
 - ➡ Postflare loops ($\sim 10^4$ K) can be observed in H α (But not always).
- Difficult to detect stellar postflare loops (e.g., Kajikiya+ 2025a, ApJ)



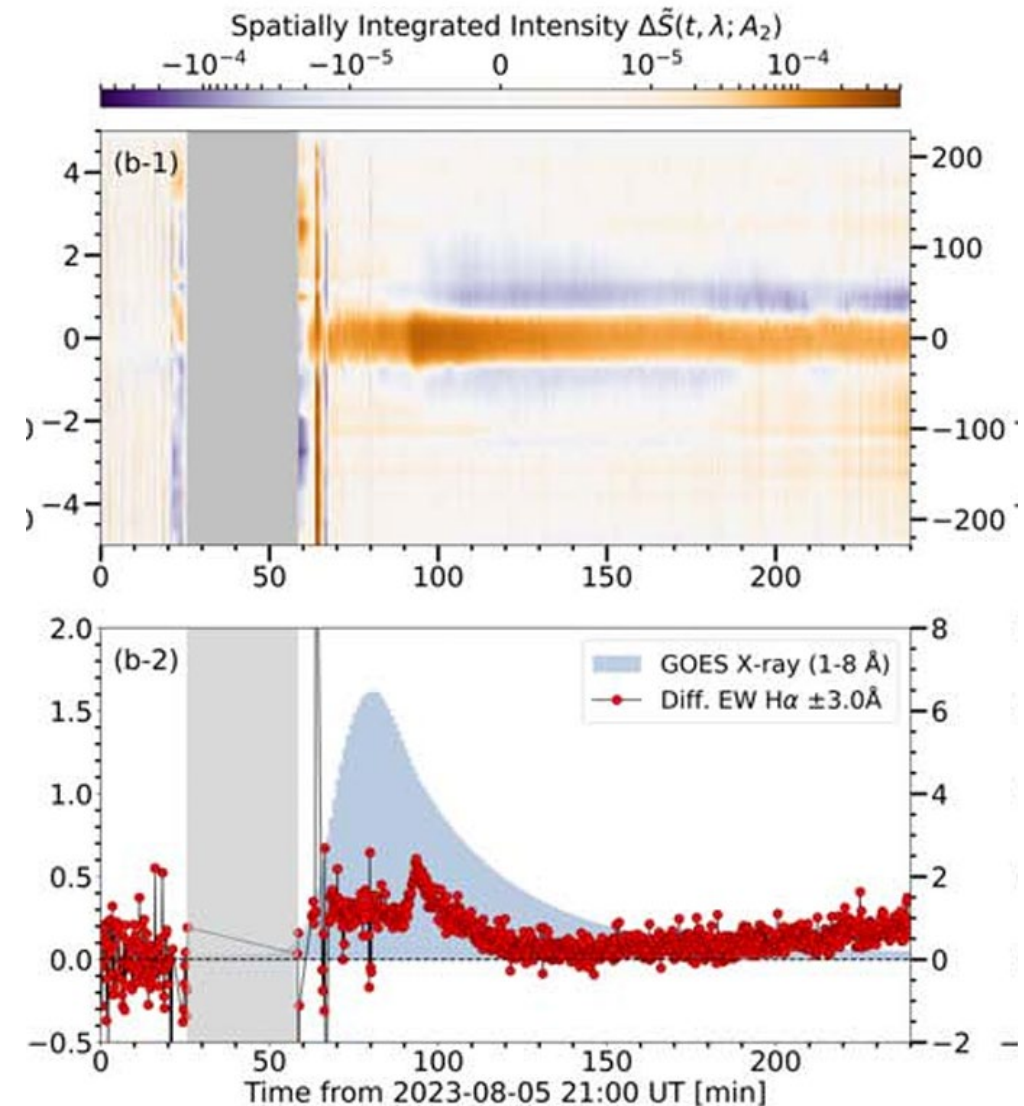
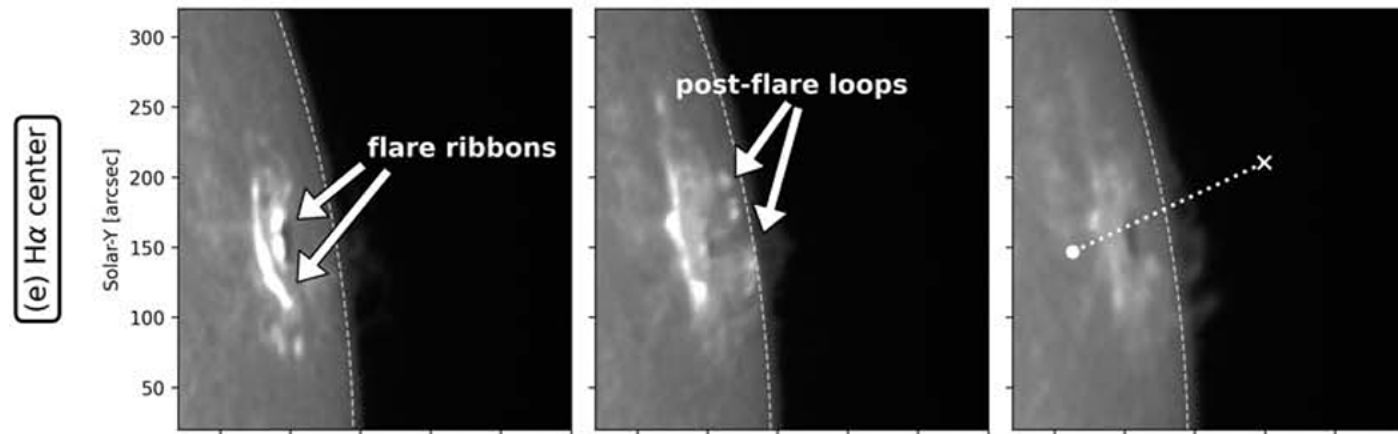
シリーズ現代の天文学 太陽

Previous studies about solar postflare loops

Otsu+ 2024 conducted the Sun-as-a-star analysis on X1.6 flare accompanied by postflare loops.

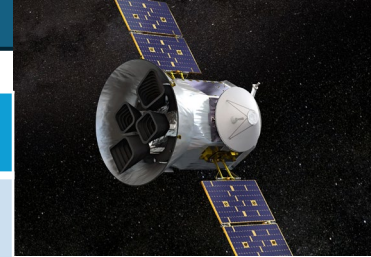
He made the lightcurve and spectra which can be compared with stellar postflare loops

From lightcurve, **delayed bump** was detected



Observations

©NASA



• Phot

TESS

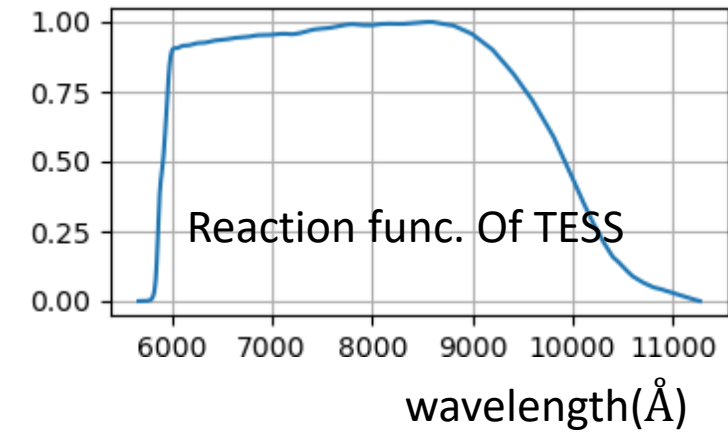
wavelength	Time cadence
6000-10000Å	2min

• Spec

せいめい望遠鏡 / KOOLS-IFU(VPH-blue)

wavelength	Time cadence	Resolution
4100-8900Å	~52sec (exp 30sec)	$\lambda/\Delta\lambda \sim 500$

from : SVO Filter Profile Service



target : M-type dwarf(M4.5 Ve) EV Lac

P_{rot}	4.38 day(Pettersen 1980)
Age	125 – 800 Myr(Paudel+ 2021)
T_{eff}	$3270 \pm 80K$ (Paudel + 2021)
Flare rate	~0.4event/h (Schmidt + 2012)

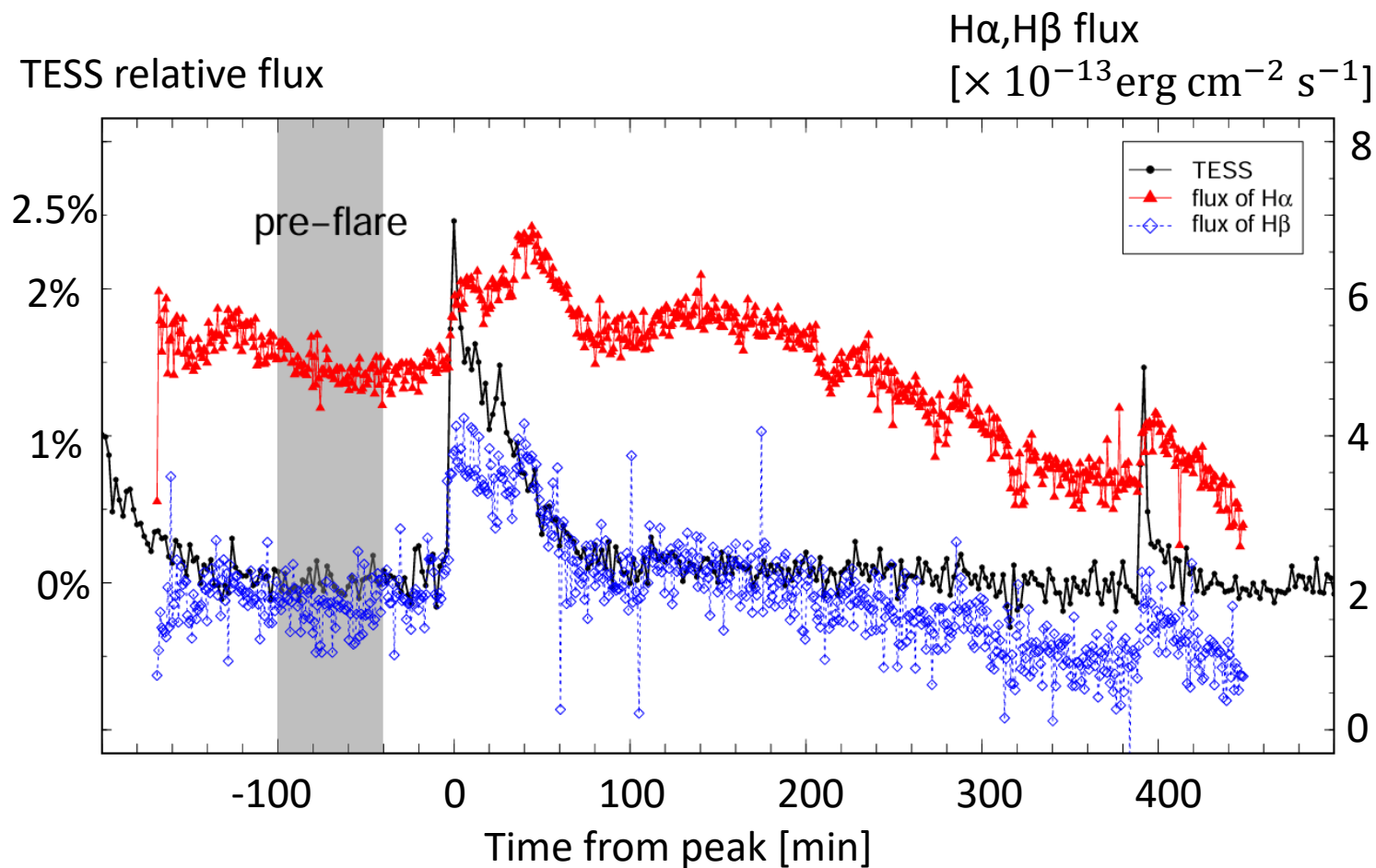


Observation period more than 8 nights during 2019/09/14-2019/10/04

⇒successfully detected one significant flare

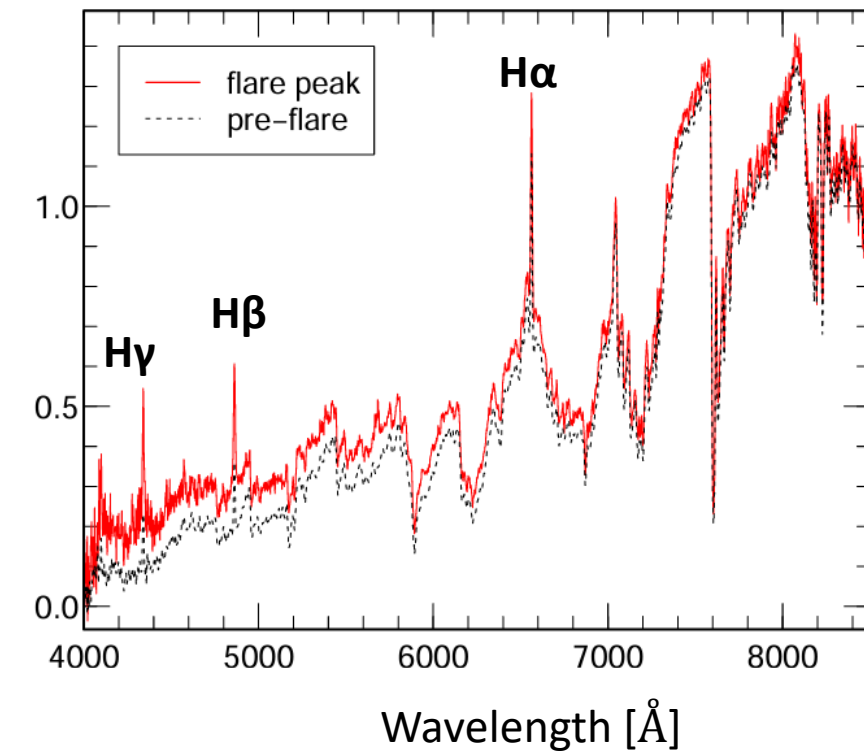
Light curves & spectra

Successfully observed a flare with Seimei & TESS simultaneously



Light curves of TESS, $H\alpha$, $H\beta$

Flux density
[$\times 10^{-13} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ \AA}^{-1}$]



Spectra at flare peak & pre-flare quiescence

Estimation of flare temperature

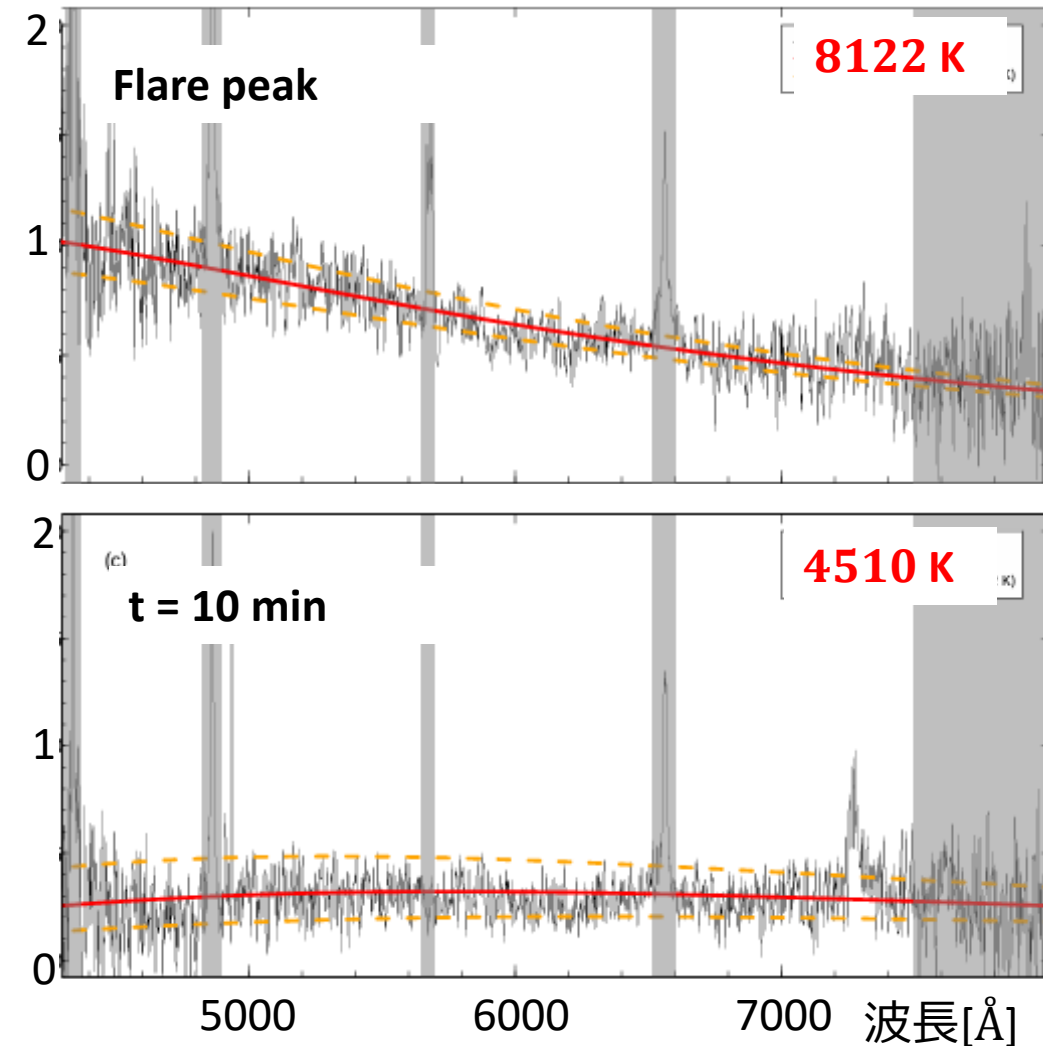
Make the flare component spectrum by subtracting quiescence from peak spectrum. Then, estimate flare temperature assuming blackbody radiation.

$$B_{\lambda} \propto \frac{A}{\lambda^5} \frac{1}{\exp\left(\frac{hc}{\lambda k_B T}\right) - 1} \quad [\text{erg} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2} \cdot \text{sec}^{-1} \cdot \text{\AA}^{-1}]$$

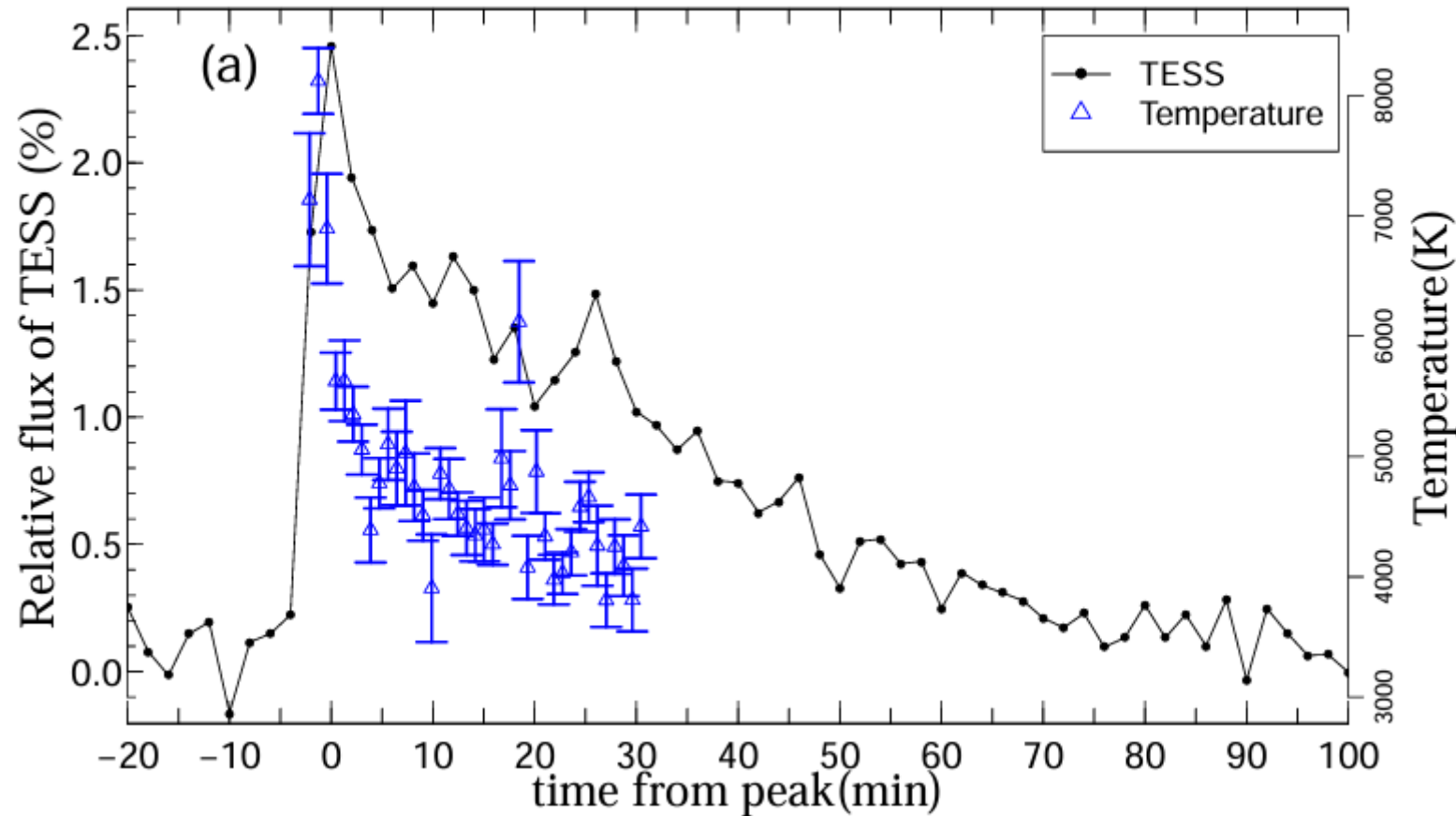
(T and A(scale factor) are free parameter)

➡ at flare peak, $T_{\text{flare}} = 8122 \pm 273 \text{ K}$ ($\sigma_T = 91 \text{ K}$)
comparable to previous research

➡ 10min after the flare peak, $T_{\text{flare}} = 4510 \pm 212 \text{ K}$
Detect the rapid decrease



Time variation of flare temperature



Decay of temperature is more rapid than decay of flux.

E-folding time

$$T_{flare} : 2.5 \text{ [min]}$$

$$\text{Flux} : 30 \text{ [min]}$$

In previous studies, they estimated the flare energy **by assuming blackbody @ $T \sim 10^4 \text{ K}$ (fixed)** so that E_{flare} may be overestimated.

Discussion① エネルギー推定

σ_{SB}	Stefan-Boltzmann 定数
R_{star}	恒星半径 ($0.38R_{\odot}$)
R_{λ}	TESSの応答関数
B_{λ}	T [K]のプランク関数
C'_{flare}	白色光の静穏期からの振幅

Using the method of Shibayama + 13, we calculated radiative flare energy with considering the decreasing flare temperature.

The luminosity is

$$L_{flare}(t) = \sigma_{SB} T_{flare}^4(t) A_{flare}(t)$$

And the area of flare($A_{flare}(t)$) is

$$A_{flare}(t) = C'_{flare}(t) \pi R_{star}^2 \frac{\int R_{\lambda} B_{\lambda}(T_{eff}) d\lambda}{\int R_{\lambda} B_{\lambda}(T_{flare}(t)) d\lambda}$$

Then, by integrating $L_{flare}(t)$ in time,

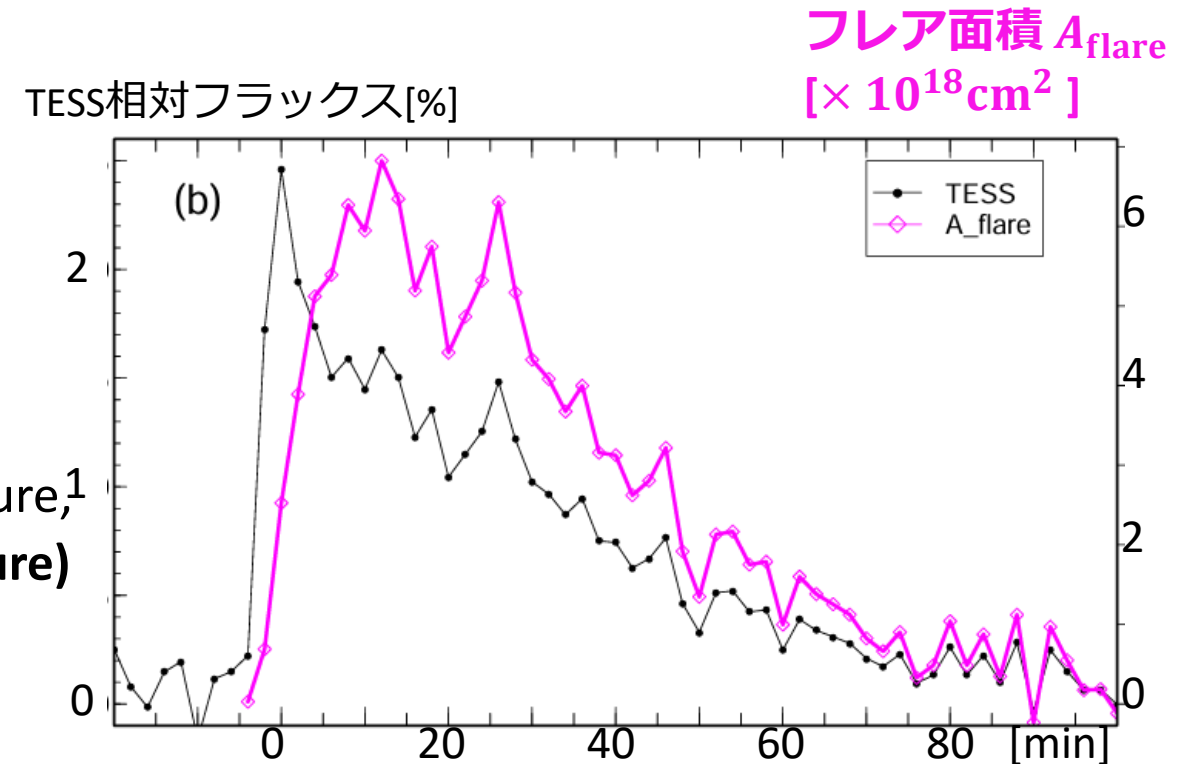
$$\Rightarrow E_{flare} = 4.4 \times 10^{32} \text{ erg}$$

If we does not consider the time-evolution of flare temperature,¹

$$E_{flare} = 8.9 \times 10^{32} \text{ erg} (T_{flare} = 8122 \text{ K, peak temperature})$$

$$E_{flare} = 1.2 \times 10^{33} \text{ erg} (T_{flare} = 10000 \text{ K, often used})$$

$\Rightarrow$ overestimated by a factor of 2-3 in TESS band

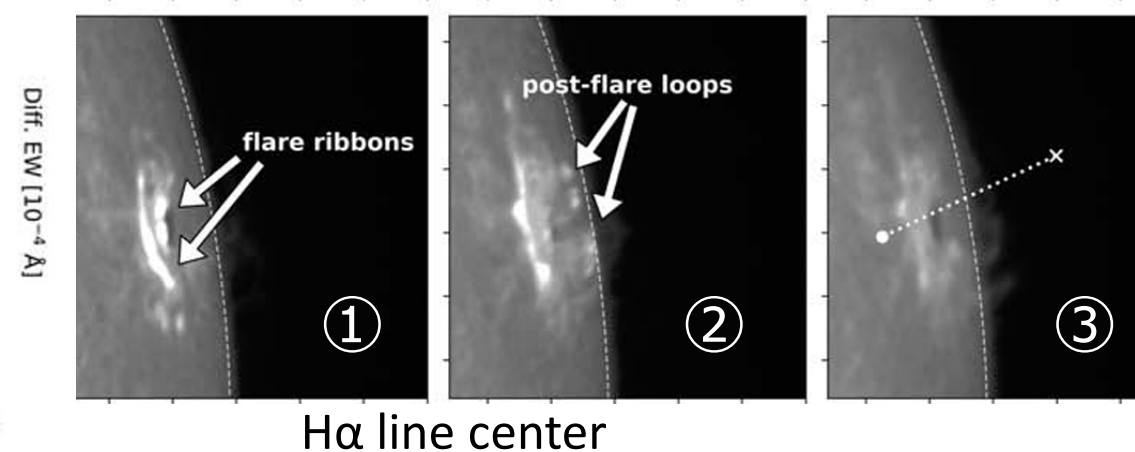
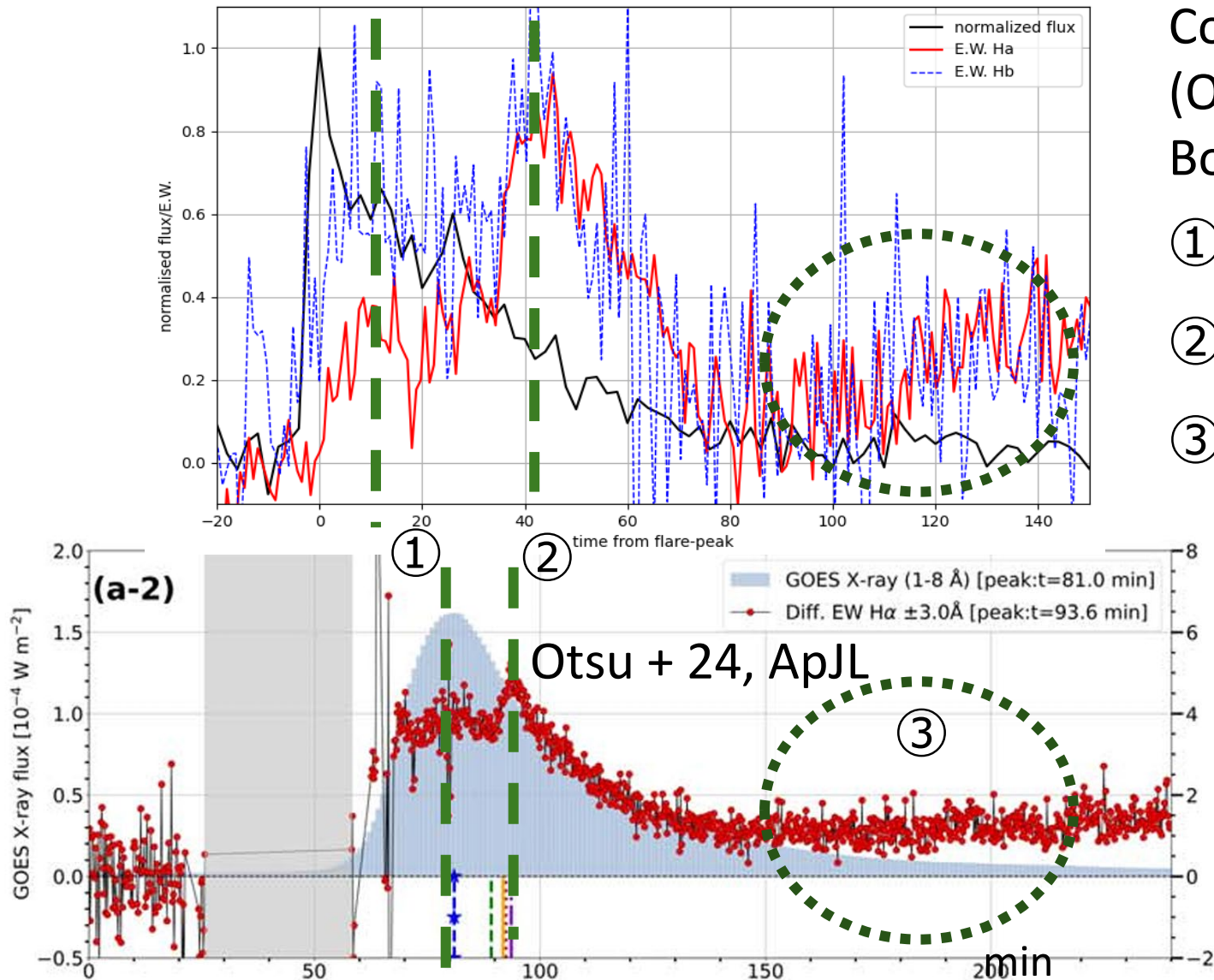


Discussion② Postflare loops on stellar flares

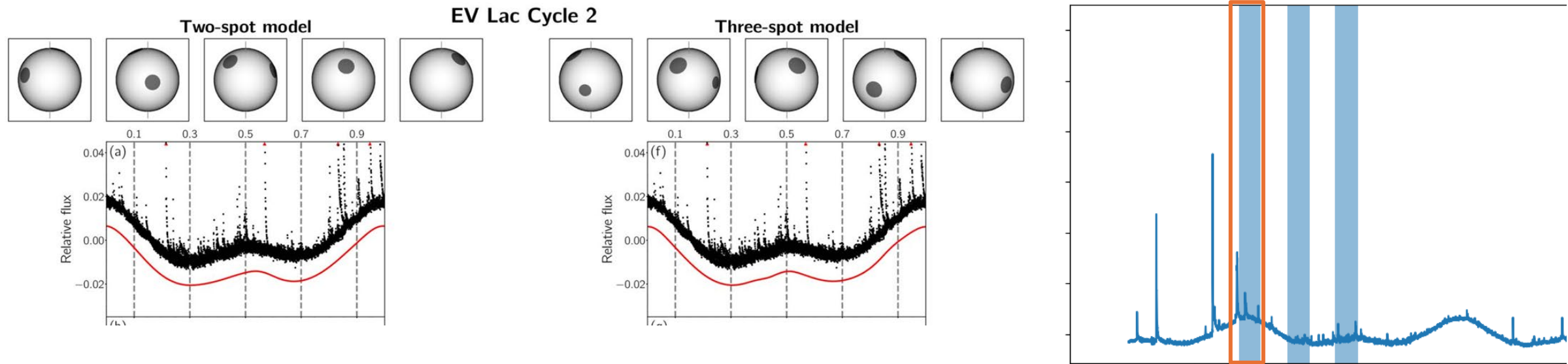
Comparing with the Sun-as-a-star analysis
(Otsu + 24, ApJL)

Both data have same 3 features.

- ① 1st increase > two ribbons
- ② 2nd increase > postflare loops
- ③ gradual increase after flare ends
> off-limb postflare loops



Discussion② Postflare loops on stellar flares

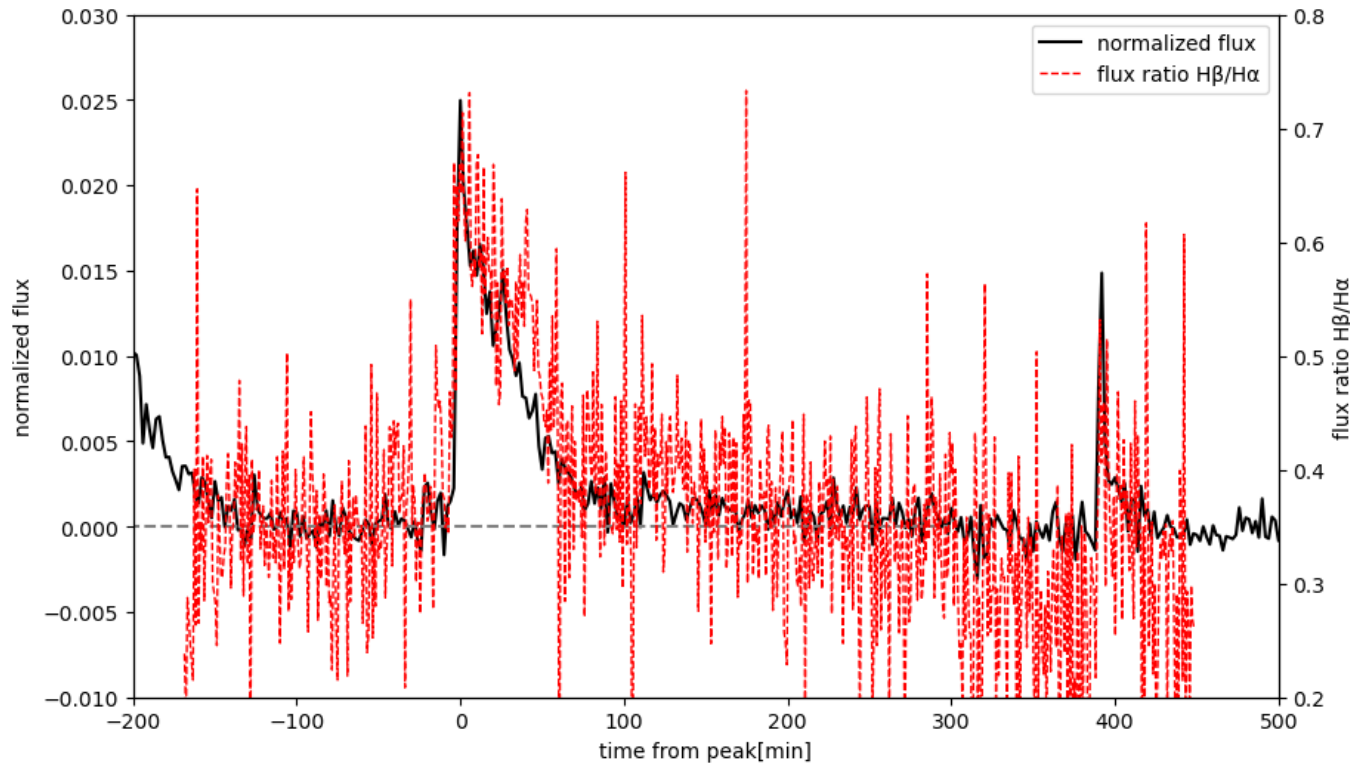


Ikuta+ 2023 conducted 2 or 3 spots mapping with TESS data(same period as this study).

>Around our flare, spot is near the limb.

the size is $\sim 6\%$ of stellar disk area (20 times larger than maximum of $A_{flare}(t)$)

Discussion② Postflare loops on stellar flares



Another aspect supporting postflare loops is flux ratio of $H\beta/H\alpha$

There is no significant 2nd peak in $H\beta/H\alpha$

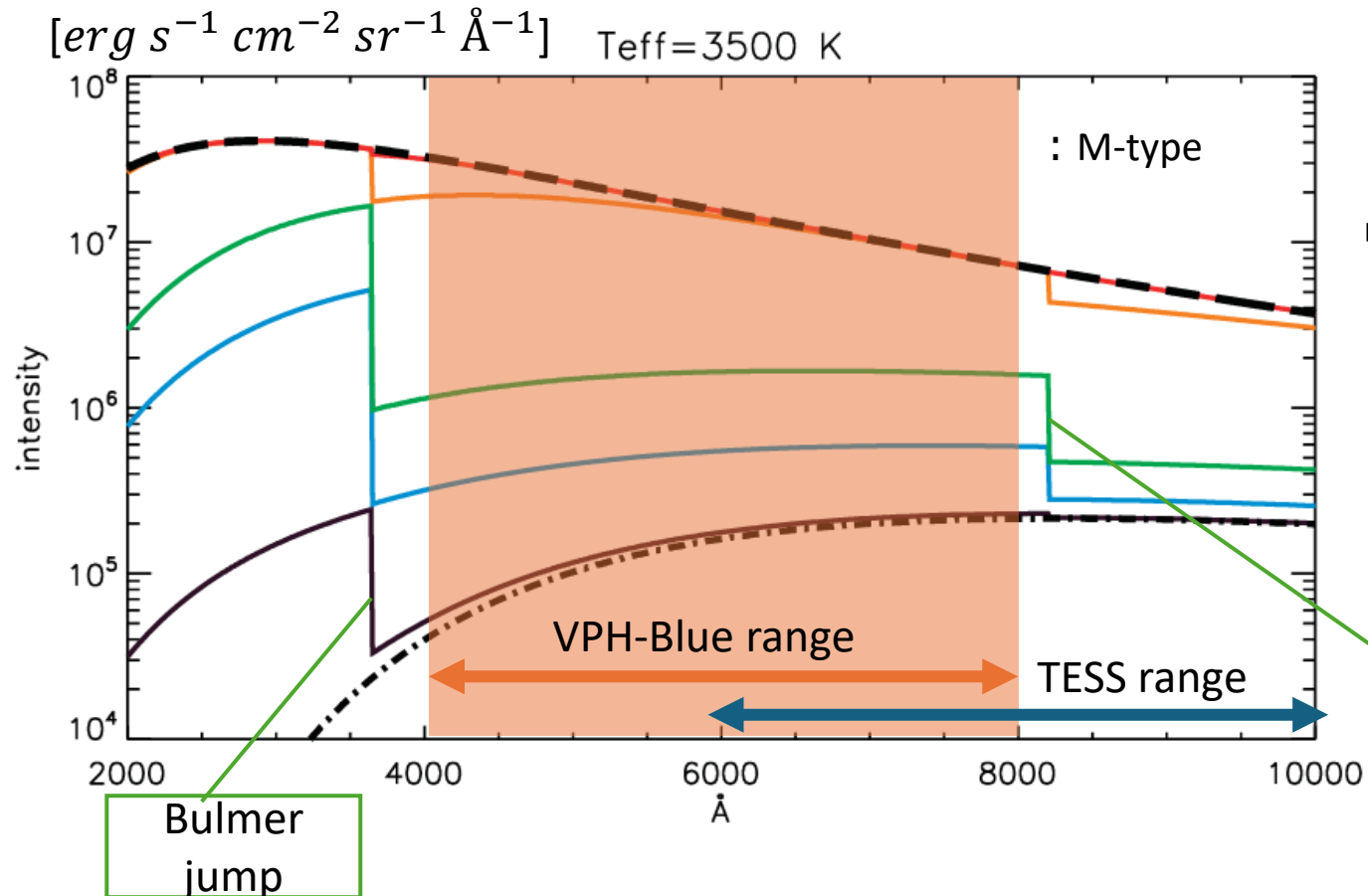
- $H\beta$ is optically thin relative to $H\alpha$
> $H\beta$ is more sensitive to flare heating (flare peak)
- No significant 2nd peak
> different radiative mechanism
> possibility of postflare loops

Future work

Time variation of $H\beta/H\alpha$ is similar to the lightcurve of optical continuum (TESS), but we don't know why.

Future prospect

Figure 1. in Heinzel 2024.



RHD simulation of 1-D slab model (depth= 500 km)

Inclination of spectra is from T_{flare} or n_e ?

➡ Cannot determine in VPH-Blue range

1. Need to observe Bulmer jump($\sim 3600\text{\AA}$)
➡ NUV spectroscopy (MAUVE, 行方さん)
2. Need to observe Paschen jump($\sim 8500\text{\AA}$)
➡ TriCCS spectroscopy mode(前原さん)

Dashed line : blackbody @10000 K

Dash-dotted line : blackbody @3500 K (quiescent)

Color lines : spectra of $n_e = 10^{15}$, 5×10^{14} , 10^{14} , 5×10^{13} , $10^{13} [cm^{-3}]$ (from top to bottom)

Summary

purpose Investigate the detailed time-evolution during white-light flares
by observations with Seimei(spectroscopy) & TESS (photometry) simultaneously

observation Observed active M-dwarf EV Lac
➡detected 1 significant white-light flare simultaneously

results

- $T_{\text{flare}} = 8122 \pm 273 \text{ K}$ (@flare peak)
- $E_{\text{flare}} = 4.4 \times 10^{32} \text{ erg}$ (considering the decreasing temperature)
- Overestimate the energy by a factor of 2-3 with fixed temperature
- Probable postflare loops

Future prospects

- Importance of NUV(行方さん's talk), NIR > > MAUVE ,TriCCS, and so on..
- Observe with MIDSSAR for detection of moving materials
- Flux calibration is essential in this research.
➡More accurate analysis is needed ➡MOFU² is good for this research