



Contribution ID: 313

Type: **Invited**

The fine scales of solar flares

Thursday 12 September 2024 09:00 (25 minutes)

The quest for ever higher spatial and temporal resolution in solar physics can sometimes be thwarted by photon flux. However, in solar flares the greatly increased output across most of the electromagnetic spectrum means that we can often take advantage of high spatial and temporal resolution simultaneously. The rapid evolutionary timescales of flares certainly merit this effort. This talk will review some recent results in which observations at fine spatial and temporal scales are used to explore the properties of solar flare magnetic energy release and energy transport. The emphasis will be on chromospheric and transition region observations of flare footpoints and ribbons. Topics will include ribbon fine structure and what it reveals about coronal processes, and footpoint timing measurements and the chromospheric source heights, both of which help constrain energy transport models.

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Session Classification: Multi-scale energy release, flares and coronal mass ejections

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