

# Growing Transverse Oscillations of a Multistranded Loop Observed by SDO/AIA

Tongjiang Wang

Leon Ofman, Joseph M. Davila, and Yang Su

Catholic University of America and  
NASA's GSFC

# Outline

## 1. Introduction

- a) Basic theory of MHD waves in magnetic flux tube
- b) Brief overview of studies of transverse loop oscillations

## 2. Analysis of amplitude-growing transverse loop oscillation by SDO/AIA

## 3. Discussion and Conclusions

# Introduction

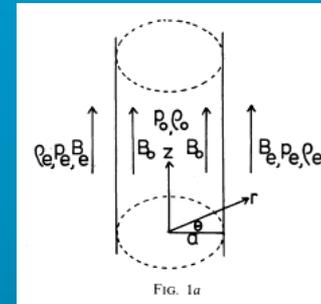
- Motivation

- MHD waves  $\Rightarrow$  possible source for coronal heating and solar wind acceleration
- Understand physical processes of excitation and damping mechanisms of various oscillation modes in coronal structures
- Develop coronal seismology  $\Rightarrow$  diagnostic tool for determining physical parameters of coronal structure  
(Roberts, Edwin & Benz 1984; Roberts 2000)

# MHD oscillations and waves in coronal loops

- In a straight magnetic cylinder  
(Edwin & Roberts 1983; Robert et al. 1984)

All disturbances,  $v=v(r) \exp[i(\omega t+n\theta-kz)]$



Loop length =  $L$ ,  
radius =  $a$

Periods for standing modes

$$P=2\pi/\omega$$

$$P_{slow} = \frac{2L}{j c_T} \approx \frac{2L}{j c_0}$$

$$P_{kink} = \frac{2L}{j c_k} \approx \frac{2L}{j V_A} \left( \frac{1 + \rho_e / \rho_0}{2} \right)^{1/2}$$

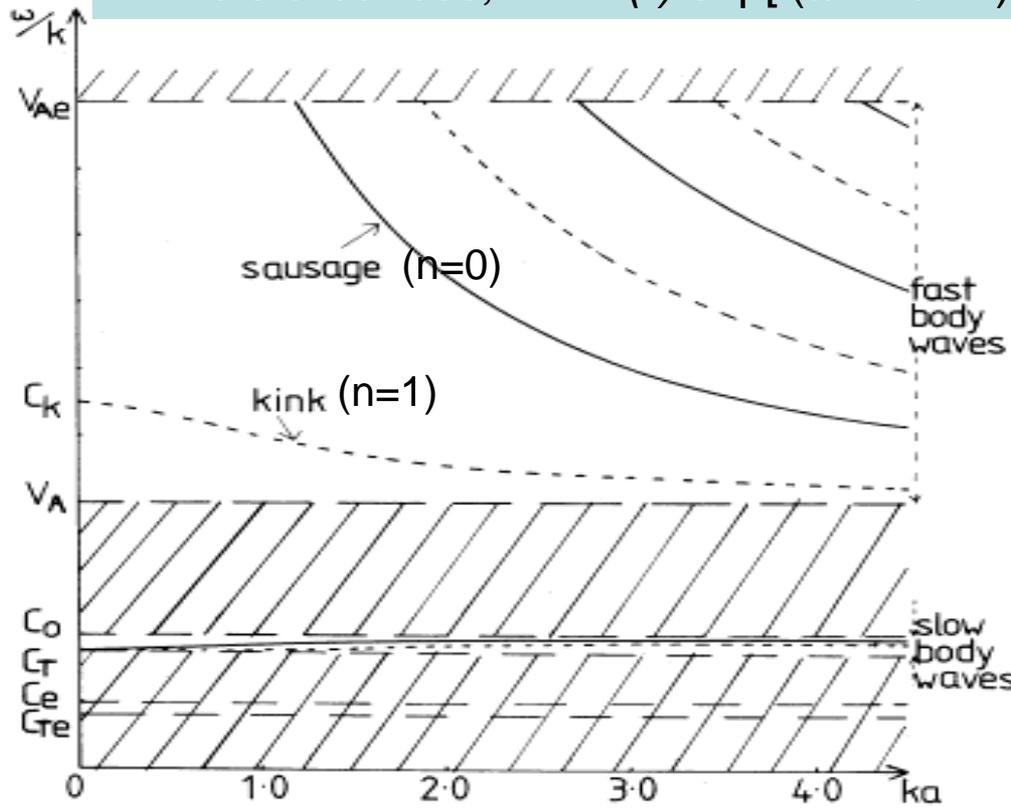
$$P_{sausage} \leq \frac{2\pi}{k_c V_{Ae}} \approx \frac{2.6a}{V_A} \left( 1 - \frac{\rho_e}{\rho_0} \right)^{1/2}$$

- Expected oscillation periods

Slow modes:  $P = 7 - 70$  min  
Kink modes:  $P = 1.4 - 14$  min  
Sausage modes:  $P = 0.1 - 5$  s

(Aschwanden 2003)

phase speed

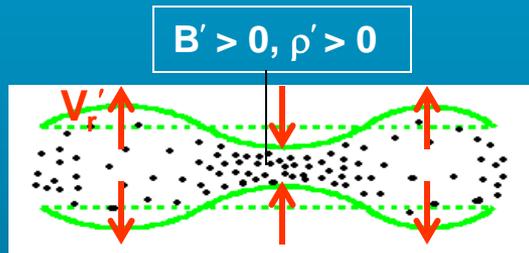


longitudinal wavenumber

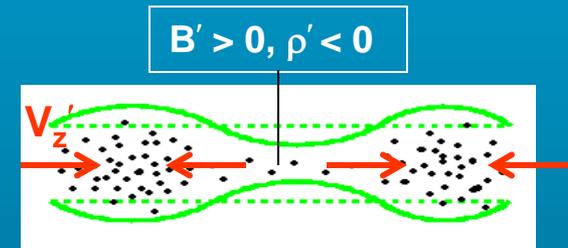
# Sketches of oscillation modes

## 1) Fast modes:

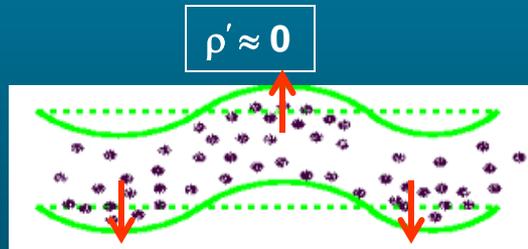
(a) sausage  
(symmetric)



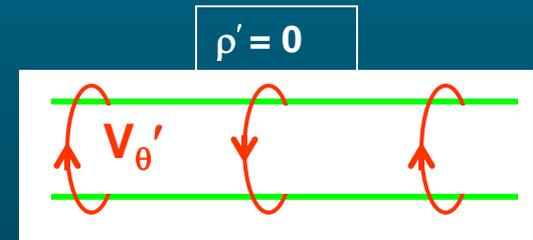
## 2) Slow (sausage) modes:



(b) kink  
(asymmetric)

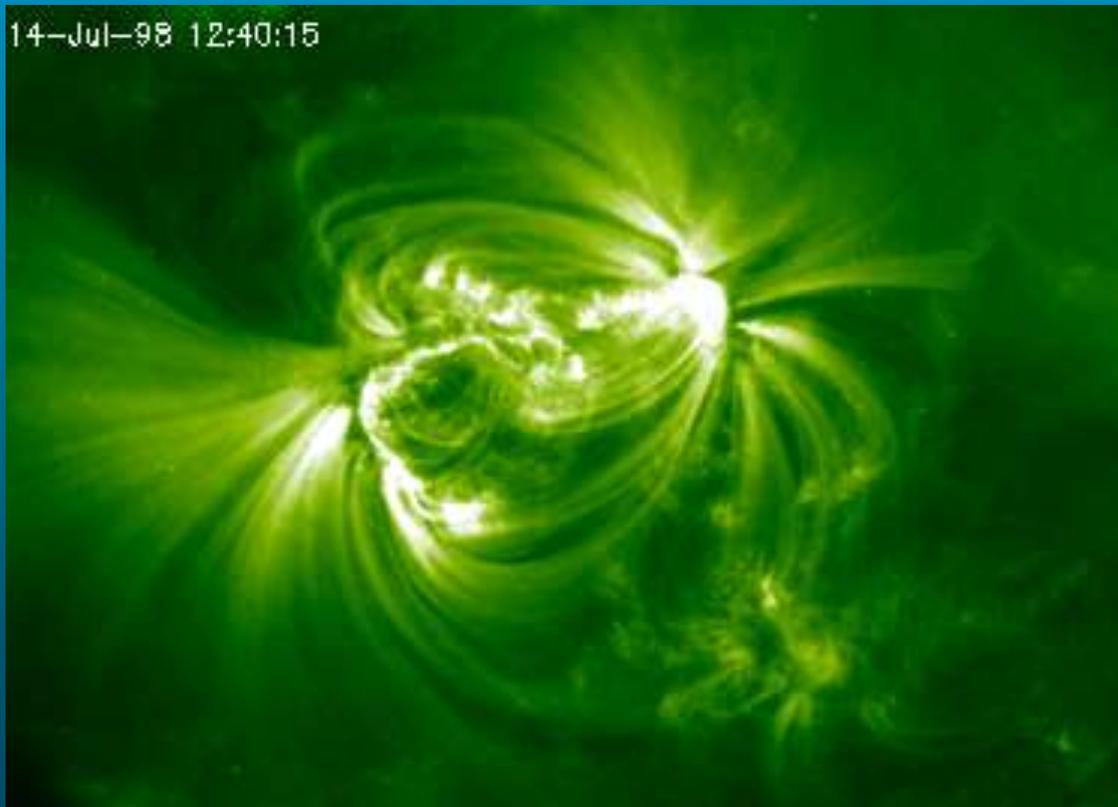


## 3) Torsional Alfvén modes:



# Transverse loop oscillations observed by TRACE

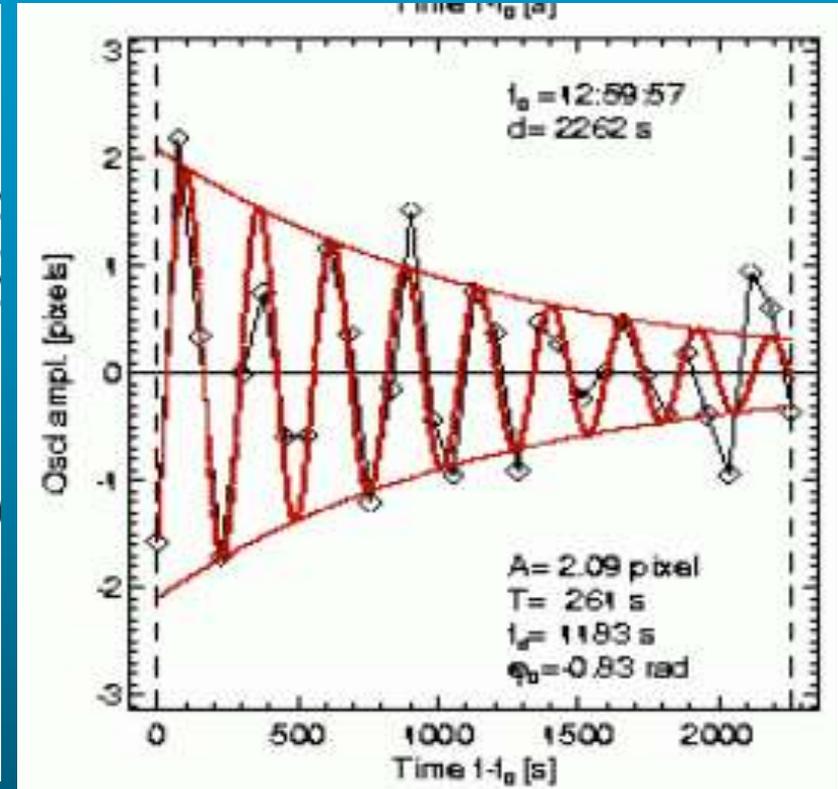
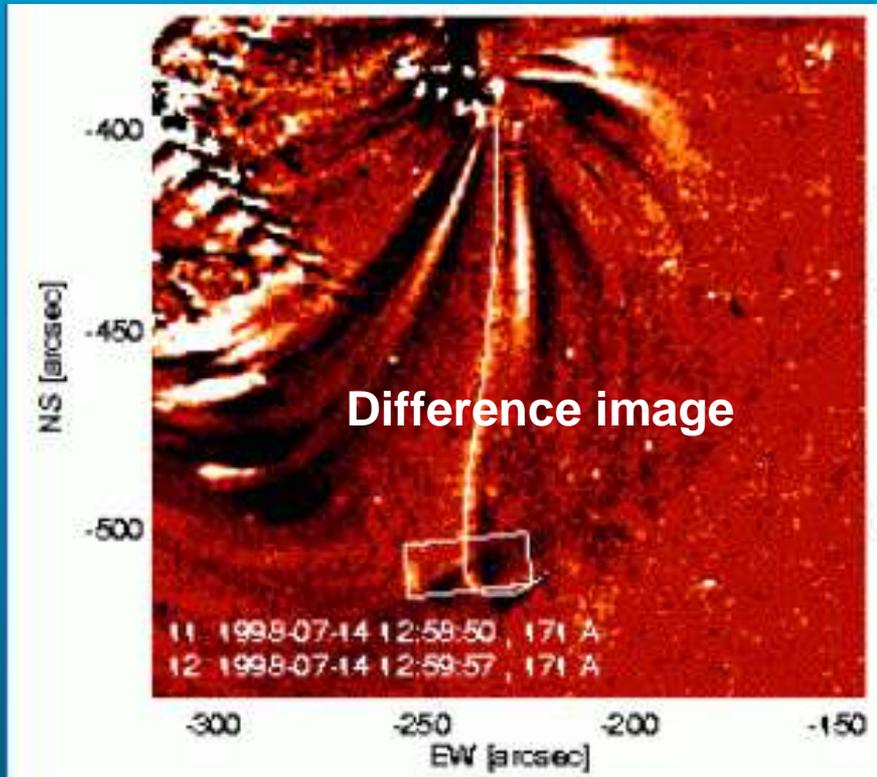
- Triggered by flares or CME eruptions  
(Aschwanden et al. 1999; 2002)



Movie in 171 Å

- excited by a flare disturbance
- Period: 5 - 6 min  
Loop length: 160 - 200 Mm
- Phase speed:  
 $V_p = 2L/P = 1300 \text{ km/s}$
- Interpretation:  
Standing fast kink mode  
oscillations in fundamental mode

# Measurement of the physical properties



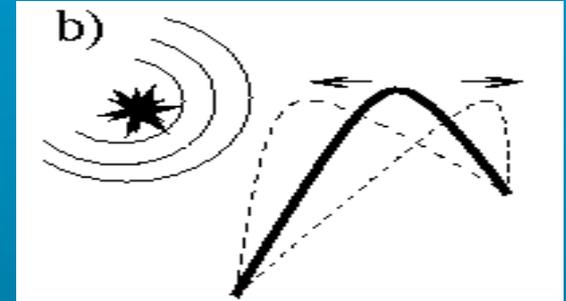
(Aschwanden et al. 2002, Sol. Phys.)

- Typically with a rapid decay within several periods
- Some oscillations are undamped (Aschwanden & Schrijver 2011)

# Excitation of kink modes

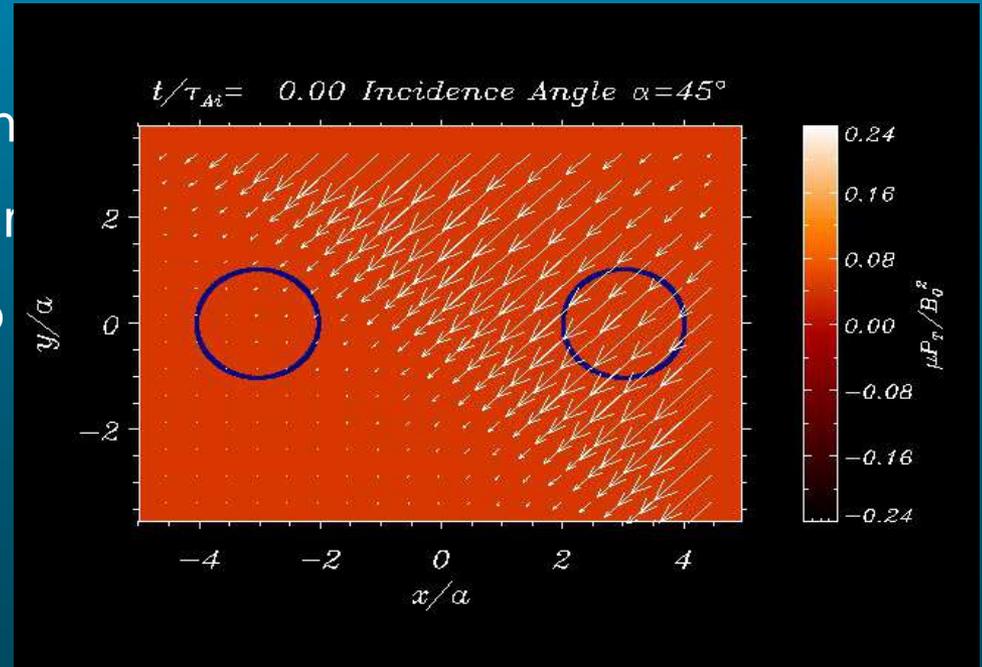
- **Observation**

- Flare-generated disturbance -- a blast wave, or a EIT wave (fast-mode wave) propagate in the corona and produce kink oscillations of nearby loops
- Triggered by filament eruptions or CMEs



- **Theory and modeling**

- Slab or cylinder configuration
- Normal modes or Time-dependent
- Energy deposit by initial disturbance
- Single or multi-stranded loop



blast wave

Luna et al (2008)

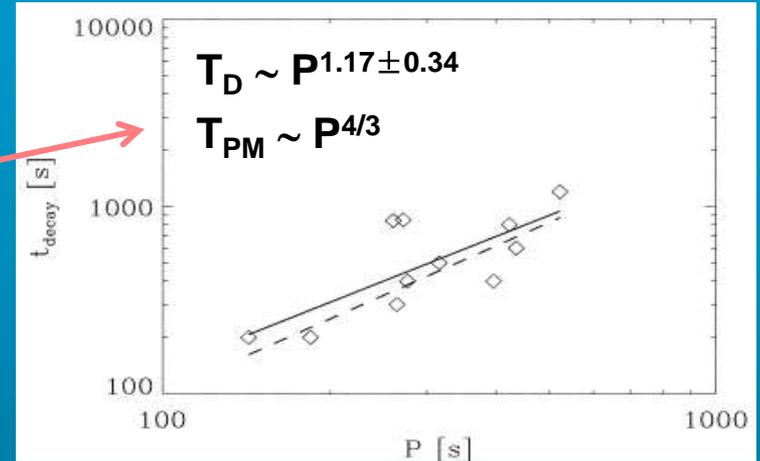
# Damping mechanism of kink waves

- Phase mixing

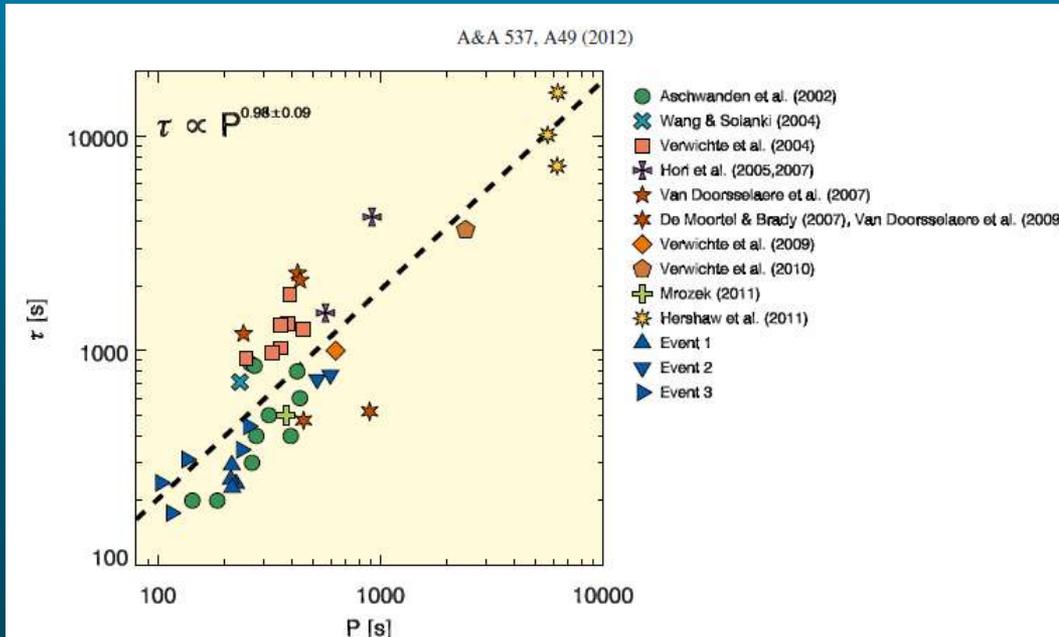
(Nakariakov et al. 1999, sci.)

(Ofman & Aschwanden 2002)

viscosity  $\nu = 10^{8-9} \nu_{\text{class}}$



(assuming the inhomogeneity scale,  $l \sim w$  or  $l \sim L$ )



$$T_d \sim P^{0.98 \pm 0.09}$$

For more than 40 cases (White and Verwichte (2012))

# Damping mechanism of kink waves

- Wave leakage

- Footpoint leakage very small

(Ofman 2002)

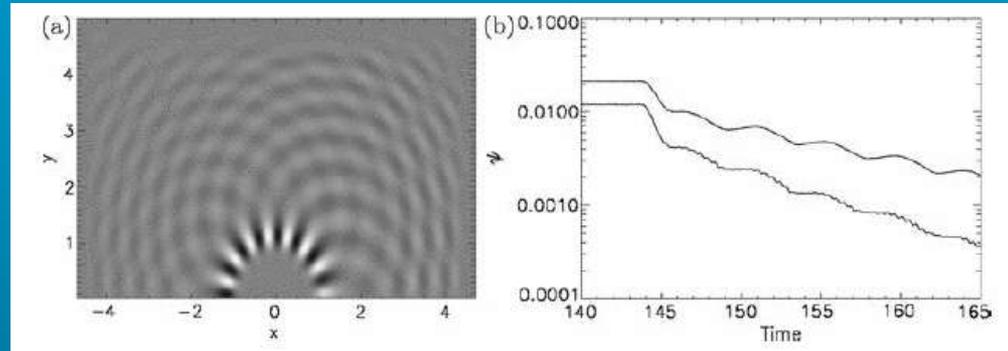
- Lateral leakage by tunneling effect

(Brady & Arber 2005, A&A) 2D MHD

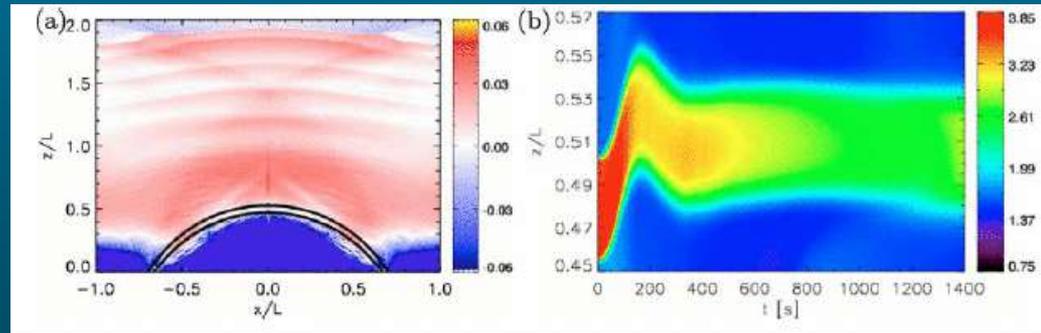
(Verwichte et al. 2006)

(Selwa et al. 2005, A&A) 2D MHD

(Murawski et al. 2005, A&A) 2D MHD



Brady & Arber 2005



Selwa et al 2007

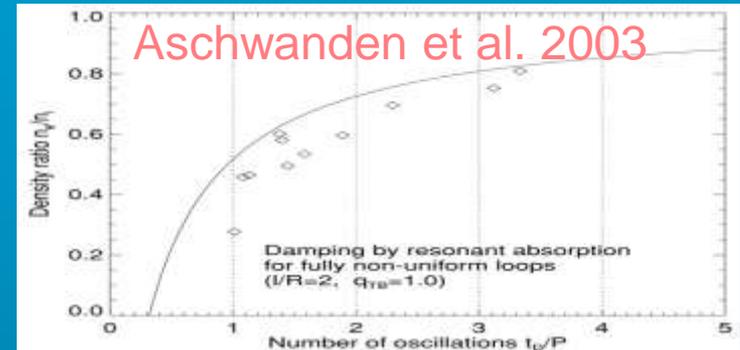
# Damping mechanism of kink waves

- Resonant Absorption

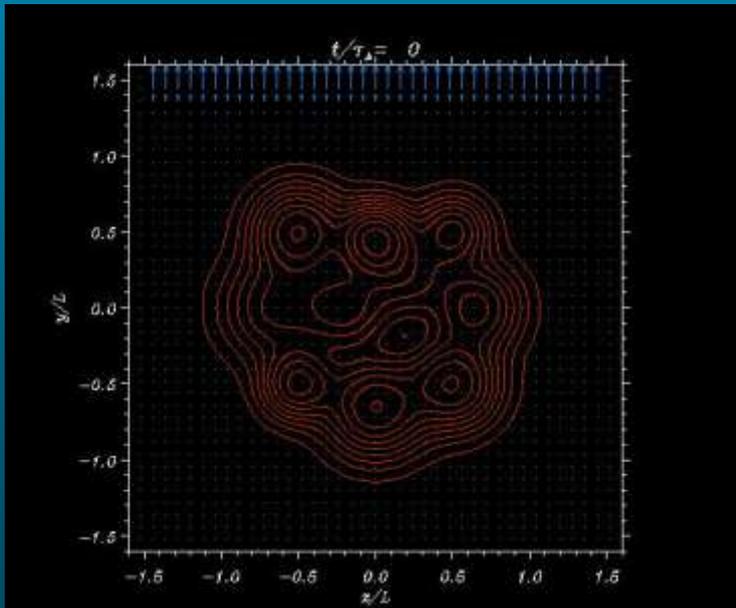
Conversion of global modes into torsional Alfvén mode in thin layer of a loop

(Ruderman & Roberts, 2002, ApJ) Theory  
(Goossens et al. 2002, A&AL) 1D MHD

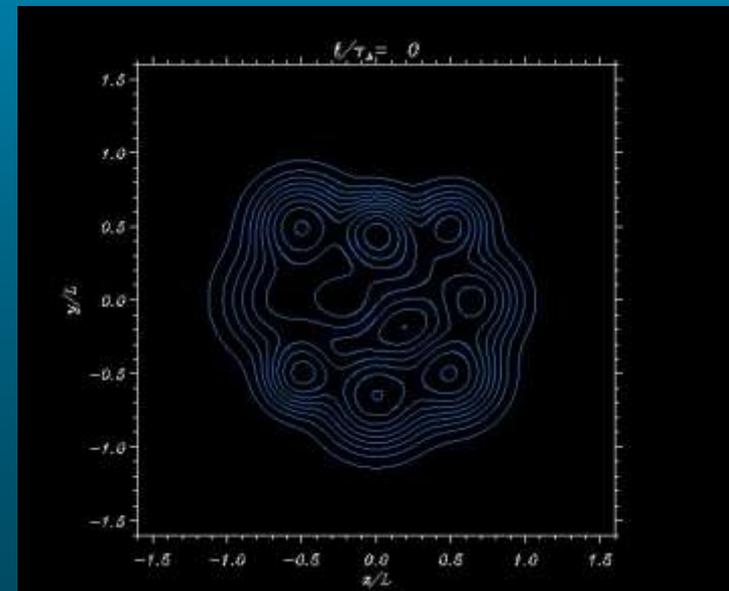
(Van Doorselaere et al. 2004, ApJ) 1D MHD



$$\left(\frac{\tau_D}{P_{thin}}\right) = q_{TB} \frac{2}{\pi} \left(\frac{r_{loop}}{l_{skin}}\right) \frac{(1+q_n)}{(1-q_n)}$$



Velocity



Energy density

(Terradas et al. 2008)

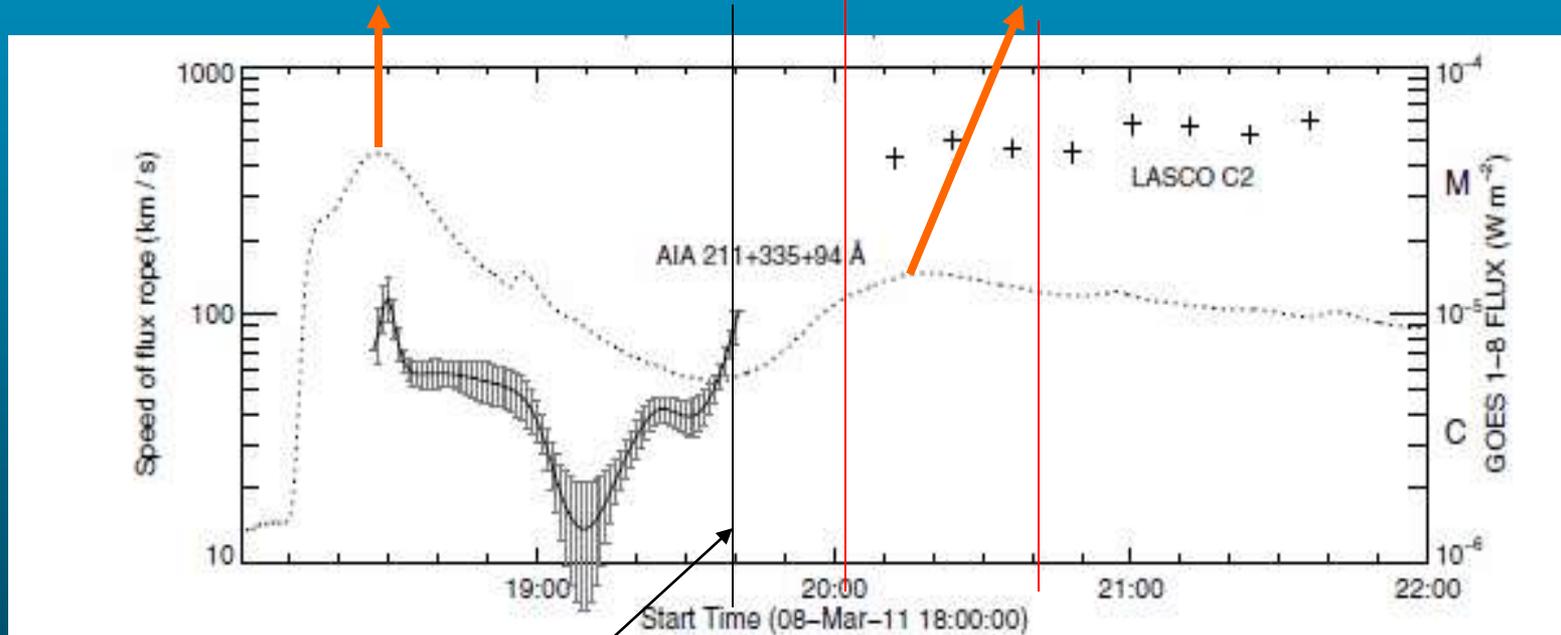
## 2. Observations

- A two-stage flare-CME event on 2011 March 8

using SDO/AIA, STEREO/EUVI-A, and RHESSI by [Su et al. \(2012\)](#)

I: Forming a flux rope

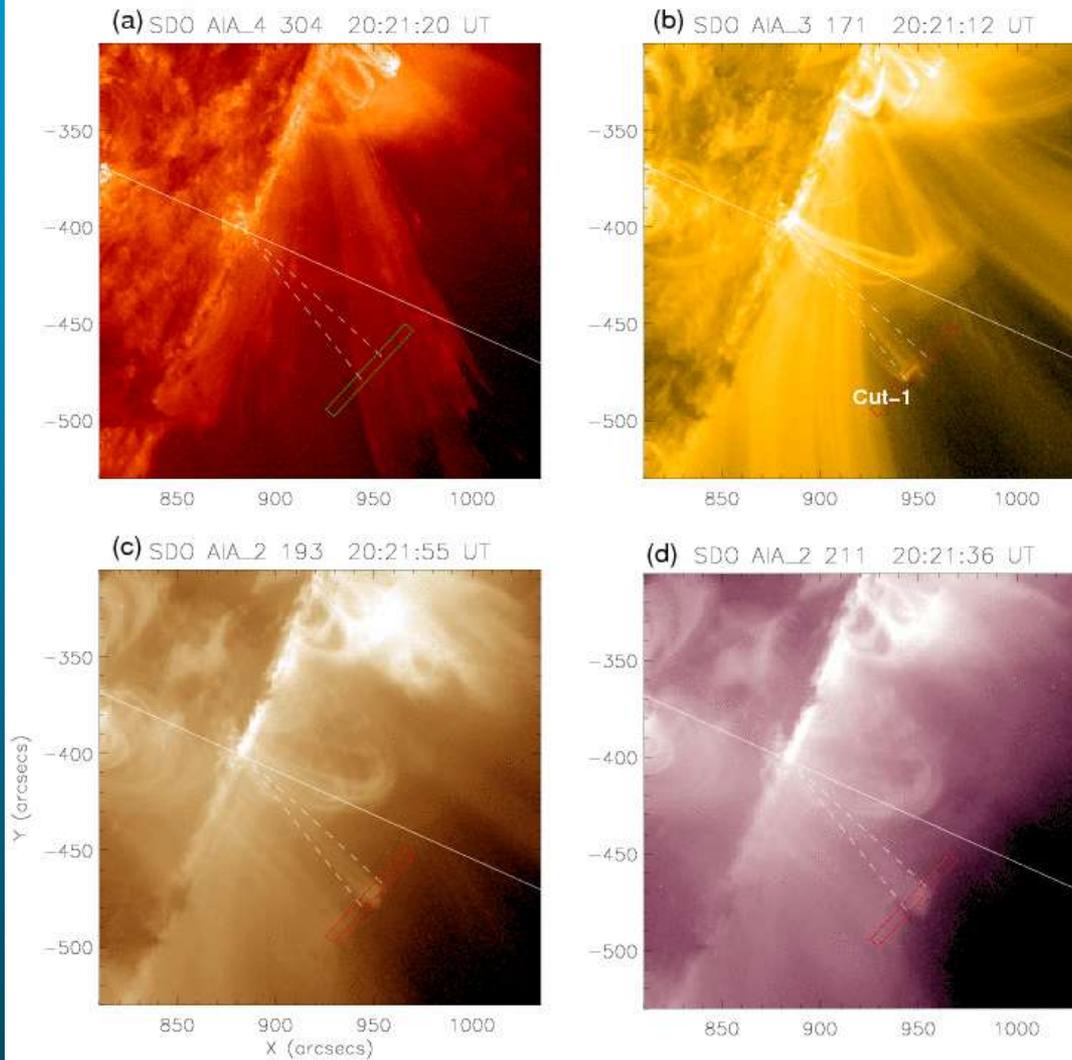
II: Flux rope eruption (CME)



Start time of  
oscillation

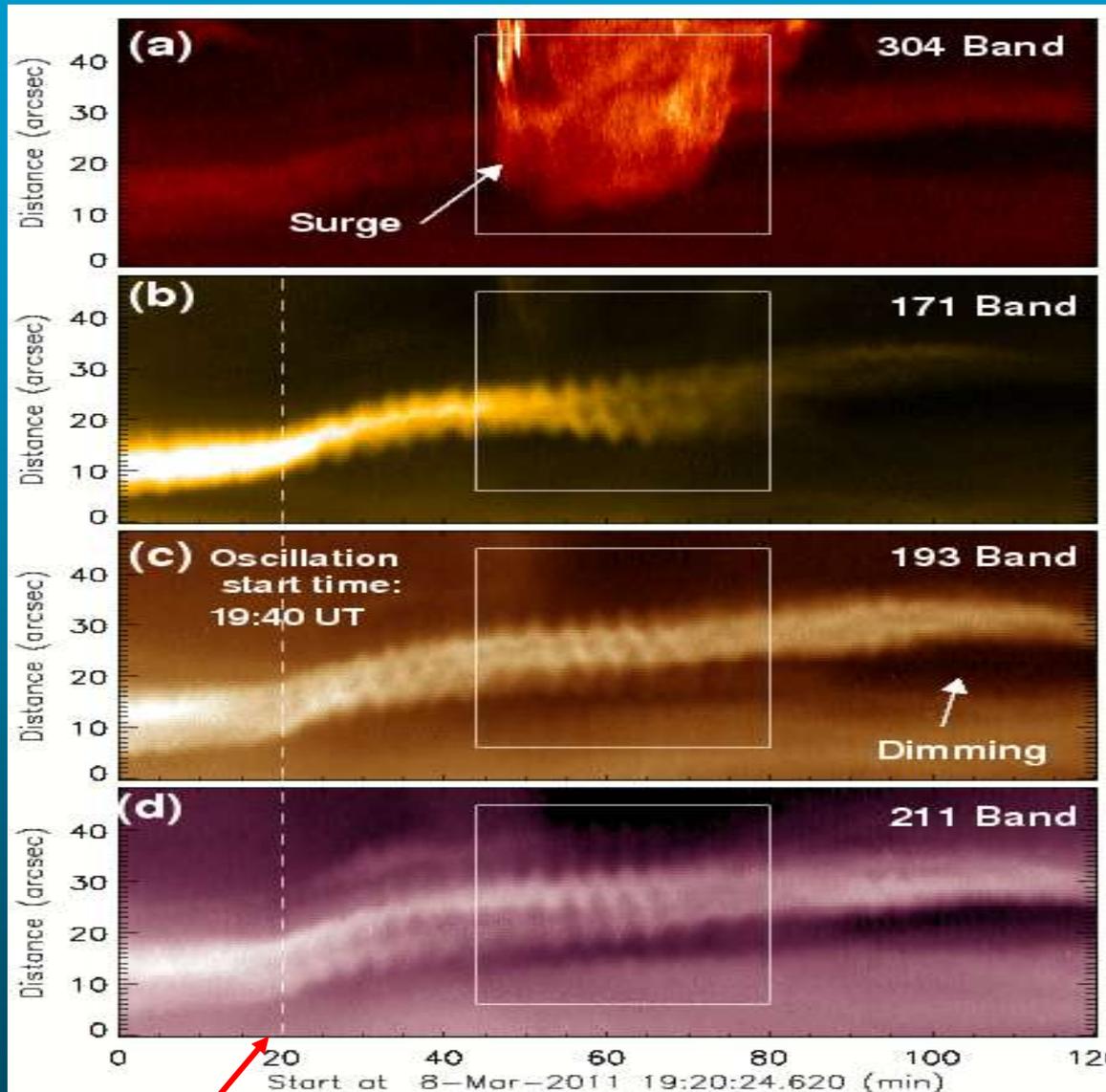
Oscillation event of interest  
from 20:00 – 20:40

### 3. Analysis of transverse loop oscillations



- Dashed lines outline the oscillating loop seen in 211 A band
- A cut at loop apex used for time stacking plot to measure transverse oscillations
- Oscillation apparently associated with a surge/jet event, but actually not as shown by STEREO-A

### 3. Analysis of transverse loop oscillations



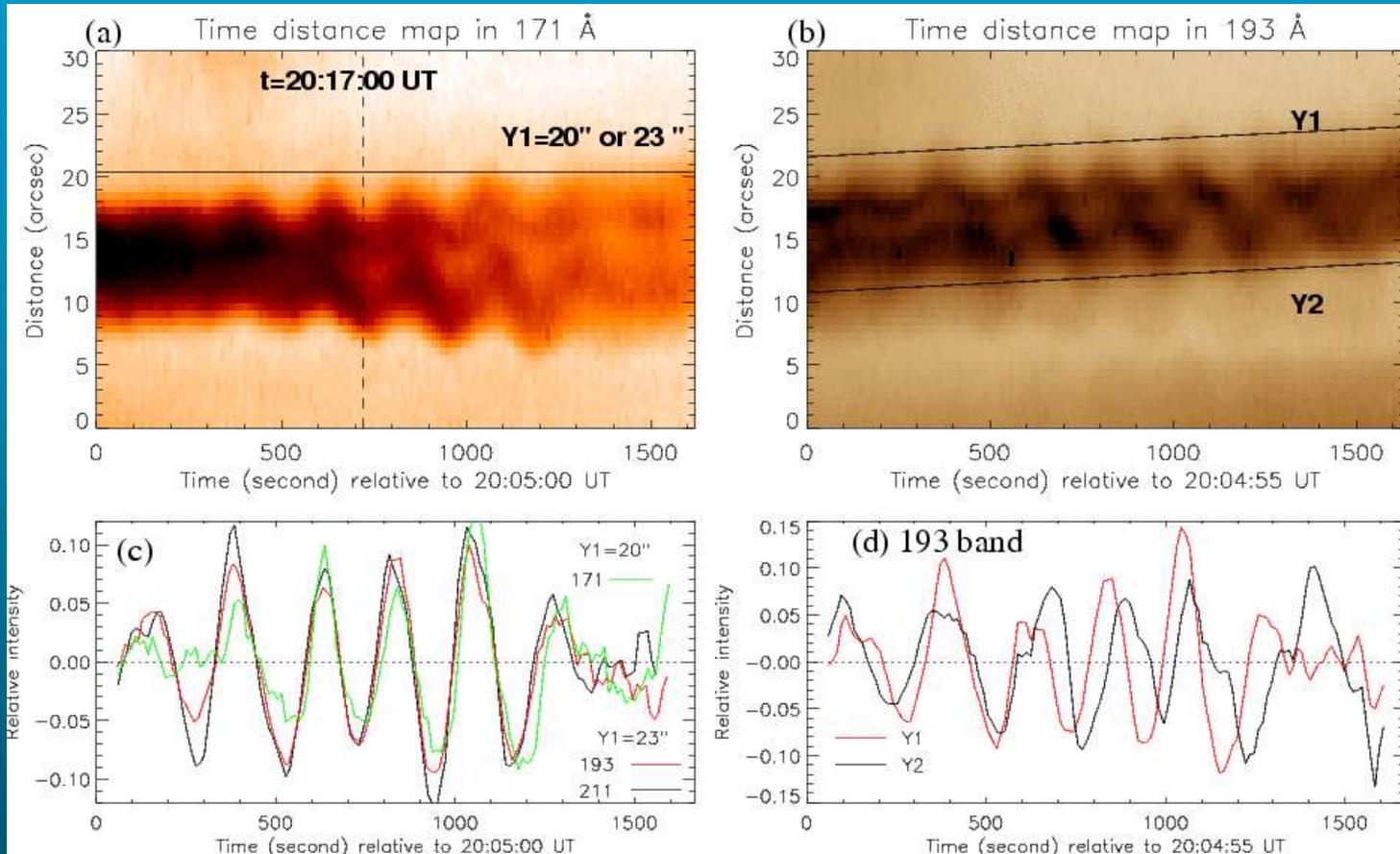
- Loop consists of temperature-dependent multiple strands showing different dynamic behaviors

- Lower part of loop disappeared associated with dimming in all bands – **erupted**

- Upper part dimmed in 171 and remain in 193 and 211 - **heating**

Erupting time of a flux rope

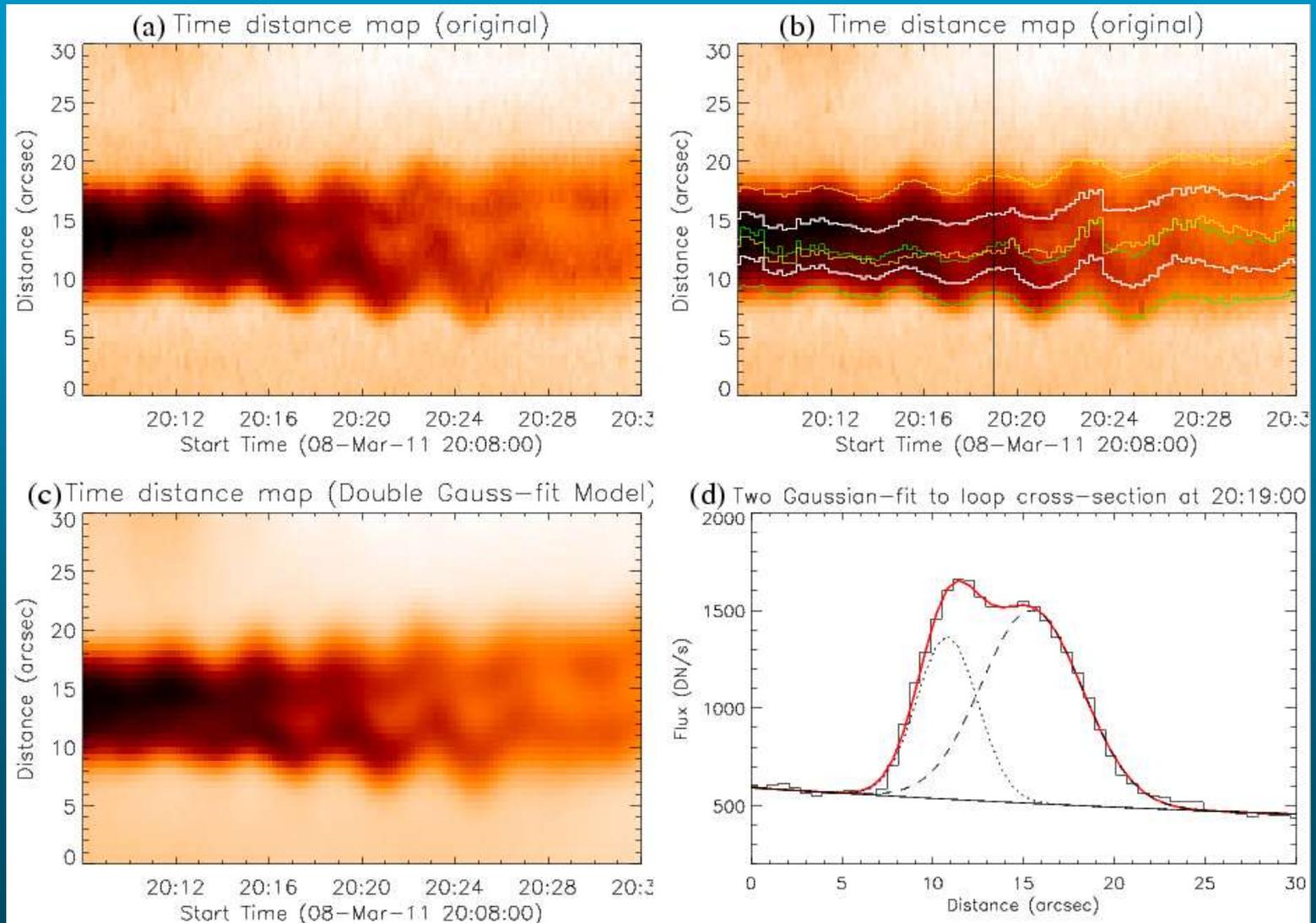
### 3. Analysis of transverse loop oscillations phase relationship of different strands



- Two strands in 171 show inphase oscillations with growing amplitudes
- Upper strands in 171 and 193 not co-spatial, they are inphase
- Two strands in 193 oscillate in phase for  $\sim 2$  periods, then a  $P/4$  phase delay set up with periods decreased by  $\sim 20\%$

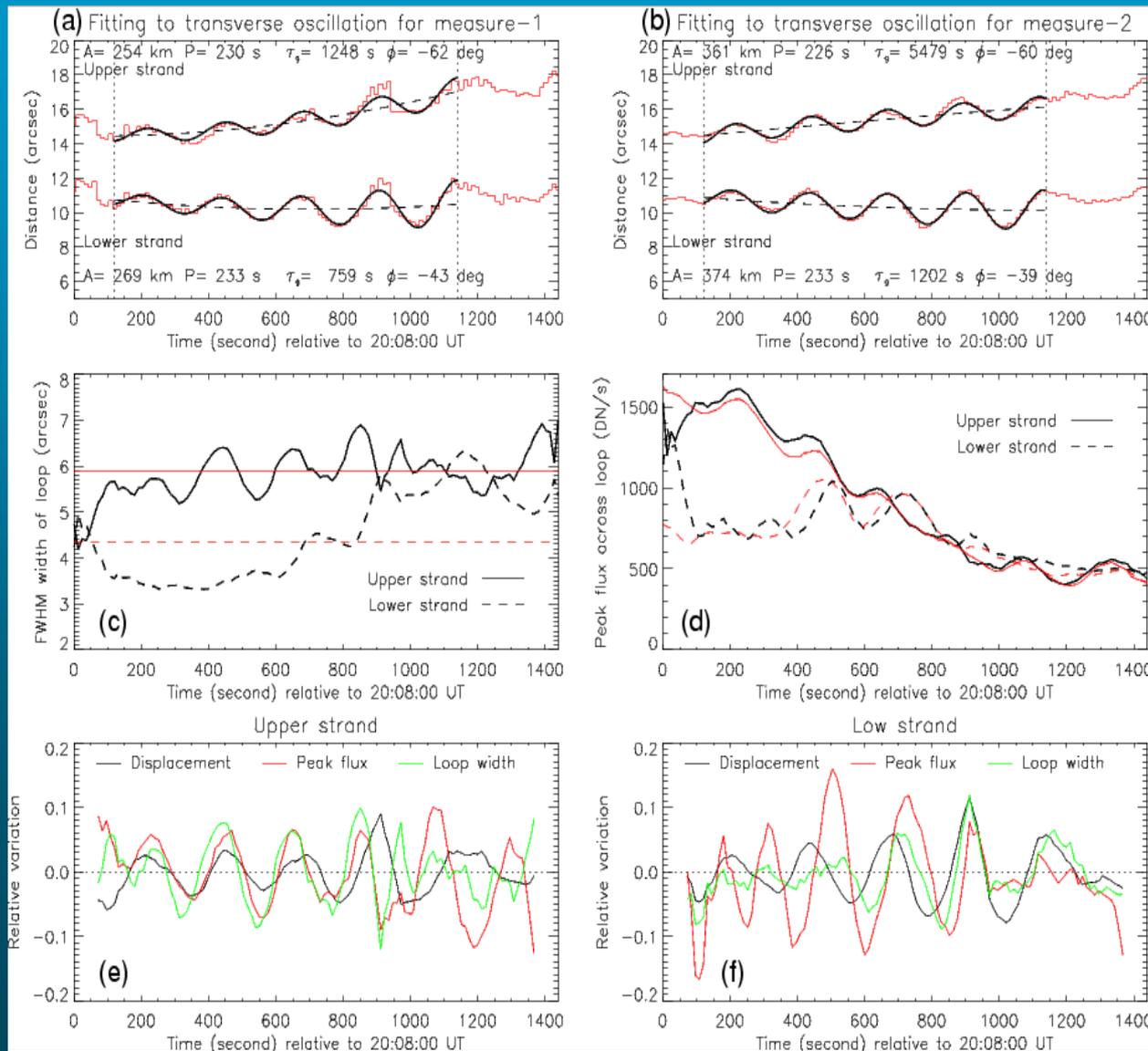
# 3. Analysis of transverse loop oscillations

## Measurement of displacement oscillations in 171



# 3. Analysis of transverse loop oscillations

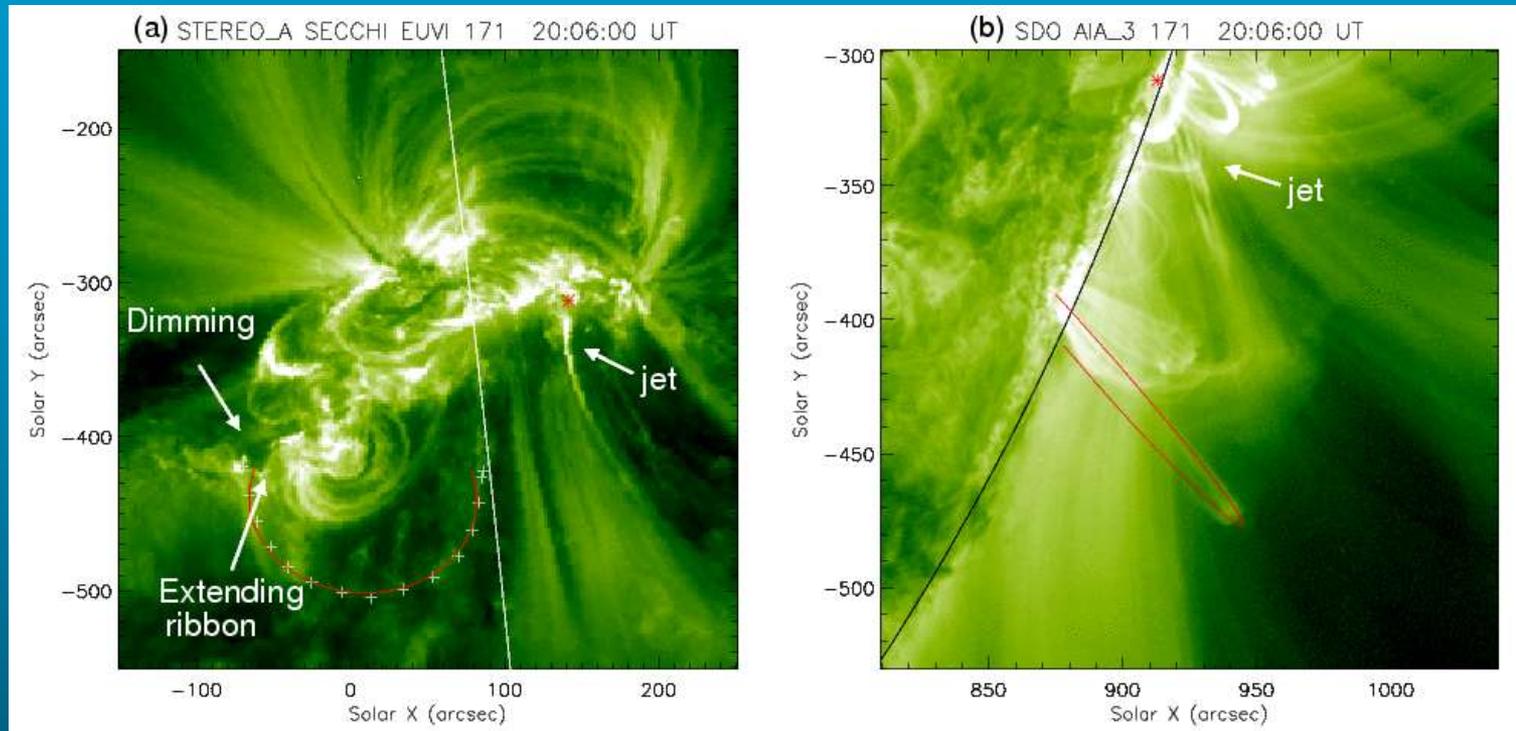
## Measurement of physical parameters of amplitude-growing oscillations in 171



- Fits of displacement oscillations with amplitude-growing sine-function (with positive damping rate)
- Association with intensity and loop width oscillations
  - intensity oscillation is real confirmed with width-fixed double Gfits
  - Positive correlation suggests that loop width variations are artifacts

# 3. Analysis of transverse loop oscillations

## Determination of trigger and loop geometry using STEREO-A



- The oscillating loop identified by fitting with a simple 3D arc-loop model
- Excluding the jet/surge as a trigger
- Association of a footpoint with extending ribbon followed by dimming region suggests that interaction of erupting flux rope (CME) continuously drive the loop oscillating, and lead it heated and partially erupted

## 4. Discussion

- Coronal seismology

Period  $P=230$  s, loop length  $L=212$  Mm, obtain  $V_p=2L/P=1840$  km/s

$$V_p \approx C_k = V_A \sqrt{\frac{2}{1 + n_e / n_i}} \quad (\text{Roberts et al. 1984})$$

Obtain Alfvén speed  $V_A=1360$  km/s if  $n_e/n_i=0.1$

magnetic field  $B=6 - 20$  G for  $n=10^8 - 10^9$  cm<sup>-3</sup>

- Evidence for coupling of kink oscillations of multiple strands
  - similar frequencies
  - in-phase or  $1/4$ -period phase shift

Questions:

- no beating behavior as predicted
- temperature-dependent dynamics of multi-strands not modeled before

## 4. Discussion

- Amplification of kink oscillation by cooling effect (Ruderman 2011a,b,c)



(Ashwanden & Schrijver 2011)

Expected damping balanced by amplification due to cooling, while  $t_{\text{cool}} \sim P$  is required

For the model of stratified loop with constant  $T_e$  of external plasma from the measurements  $h/H_0 \sim 1.5$  and  $n_e/n_i=0.1$ ,

obtain  $t_{\text{amp}} \sim 4 t_{\text{cool}} < t_{\text{grow}}$

Observations  $t_{\text{grow}} = 1248$  s and 759 s for upper or lower strands  
 $P = 230$  s

obtain  $t_{\text{cool}}/P < 1.4$  or 0.8 inconsistent with observations that show the life time of  $>4P$  and no change in  $P$ ,

Thus the observed growing oscillations or no damping oscillations are not due to the cooling effect.

## 4. Discussion

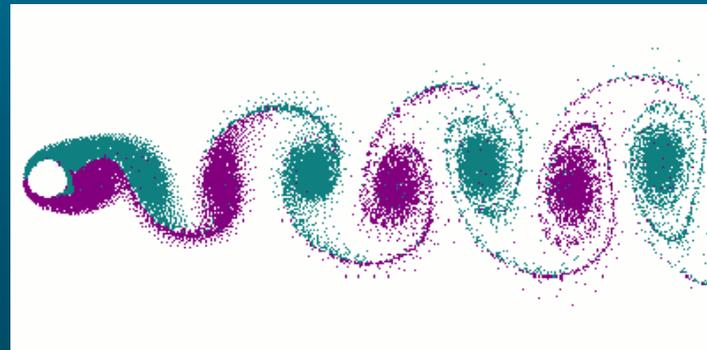
- This suggests that the wave energy in the loop is supplied continuously during the oscillations in our case, ie.

oscillations are forced by continuous, non-periodic driver (e.g. magnetic interaction caused by a CME) with energy input rate faster than damping rate

**contrast with**

the initial impulsive excitation suggested by the typical damping scenario of resonant absorption

- Alfvénic vortex shedding  
(Gruszecki, Nakariakov,  
van Doorselaere, Arber  
2010, Phys. Rev. Lett.)



**Vortex shedding behind a circular cylinder**

## 5. Conclusions

- For the first time observed clear amplitude-growing kink oscillations suggesting not impulsively generated but by continuous non-periodic driven
- Find the oscillating loop of multithermal strands showing different dynamic behaviors, which have not been studied before in theory and models
- Find the evidence for coupling and collective kink modes of multiple strands in a coronal loop