Contents

Preface **ix**

Acknowledgements **xi**

1 Introduction **1**
1.1 Solar Flare Observations and Models 1
1.2 Stochastic Particle Acceleration Model 2
1.3 Hard X-ray Observations and *RHESSI* Instruments 4
1.4 Introduction to This Book 5
1.4.1 *RHESSI* Observations 5
1.4.2 Combining the Fokker-Planck and Hydrodynamic Codes 6

2 Statistical Study of *RHESSI* Limb Flares **8**
2.1 Introduction 8
2.2 Data Reduction and Analysis 9
2.2.1 Sample Selection Criteria 9
2.2.2 Imaging 11
2.2.3 Imaging Spectra and Light Curves 11
2.3 Case Study Results 12
2.3.1 Single Loop Flares 12
2.3.2 Multiple Loop Flares 14
2.3.3 Miscellaneous Types 15
2.4 Statistical Results 18
2.4.1 Imaging Spectroscopy 18
2.4.2 Statistics of the Relative Fluxes: FPs vs. LTs 20
2.5 Flare Statistics and Selection Biases 20
2.6 Summary and Discussion 22

3 Flare Reconnection Model: 2003-11-03 X3.9 Flare **23**
3.1 Introduction 23
3.2 Observations and Data Analysis 24
3.2.1 Source Structure and Motion 25
3.2.2 Imaging Spectroscopy 27
3.3 Summary and Discussion 30

4 Double Coronal Source: 2002-04-30 M1.4 Flare **33**
4.1 Introduction . . . 33
4.2 Observations and Data Analysis . . . 35
4.2.1 Source Structure: Energy Dependence . . . 37
4.2.2 Source Structure: Temporal Evolution . . . 39
4.2.3 Spectral Evolution . . . 42
4.3 Interpretation and Discussion . . . 46
4.3.1 Energy Dependence of Source Structure . . . 46
4.3.2 Temporal Evolution of Source Structure . . . 48
4.3.3 Spectral Characteristics . . . 49
4.4 Summary and Discussion . . . 50

5 Conjugate HXR Footpoints: 2003-10-29 X10 Flare **53**
5.1 Introduction . . . 53
5.2 Observations and Data Analysis . . . 55
5.2.1 *RHESSI* Light Curves and Images . . . 56
5.2.2 Imaging Spectroscopy of Footpoint and Loop-top Sources . . . 59
5.2.3 Multiwavelength Images . . . 62
5.3 Two-phase Unshearing Motions of HXR Footpoints . . . 62
5.4 Temporal Correlations of Conjugate Footpoints . . . 66
5.4.1 Spectral Correlations . . . 66
5.4.2 Spatial Correlations . . . 70
5.4.3 Magnetic Field Correlation . . . 70
5.4.4 Correlations Among Spectral, Spatial, and Magnetic Field Parameters 71
5.4.5 Implications of Various Correlations . . . 72
5.5 HXR Footpoint Asymmetries . . . 73
5.5.1 Magnetic Mirroring . . . 74
5.5.2 Column Density . . . 75
5.5.3 Magnetic Mirroring and Column Density Combined . . . 78
5.5.4 Other Transport Effects and FP Asymmetries . . . 79
5.5.5 Acceleration-induced Asymmetry . . . 80
5.6 Summary and Discussion . . . 82

6 Chromospheric Evaporation: 2003-11-13 M1.7 Flare **85**
6.1 Introduction . . . 85
6.2 Observations and Data Analyses . . . 86
6.2.1 Source Structure and Evolution . . . 89
6.2.2 Spectral Analysis . . . 97
6.2.3 The Neupert Effect . . . 98
6.3 Loop Density Derivation . . . 104
6.4 Summary and Discussion . . . 107

7 Modeling Impulsive Phase Solar Flares **109**
7.1 Introduction . . . 109
7.2 Simulation Models . . . 111
7.2.1 Stochastic Acceleration Model . . . 111
7.2.2 Particle Transport and Radiation Model . . . 115
7.2.3 NRL Hydrodynamic Model . . . 117
7.2.4 Combining the Particle and Hydrodynamic Codes . . . 118
7.3 Simulation Result . . . 122
7.3.1 Case R: Reference Calculation . . . 123
7.3.2 Case A: Fiducial Run with SA Model . . . 125
7.3.3 Case B: Variable Electron Spectrum . . . 134
7.3.4 Case C: Harder Electron Spectrum . . . 139
7.3.5 Case D: Smaller Normalization . . . 139
7.3.6 Comparing The Cases: A Summary . . . 145
7.4 Summary and Discussion . . . 147

8 Testing the Neupert Effect **149**
8.1 Energy Budget and the Neupert Effect . . . 149
8.2 Case R: Reference Calculation . . . 151
8.2.1 History of Energy Budget . . . 151
8.2.2 Neupert Effect Test . . . 153
8.3 Cases A-D: Combined HD & Particle Calculation . . . 157
8.3.1 Case A: Fiducial Run with SA Model . . . 157
8.3.2 Case B: Variable Electron Spectrum . . . 159
8.3.3 Case C: Harder Electron Spectrum . . . 160
8.3.4 Case D: Smaller Normalization . . . 160
8.4 Summary and Discussion . . . 163

9 Hydrodynamic Simulation of the Decay Phase **166**
9.1 Introduction . . . 166
9.2 Model of Suppression of Conduction and Plasma Heating . . . 167
9.3 Numerical Results . . . 168
9.3.1 Case A: No Heating or Suppression of Conduction . . . 170
9.3.2 Case B: Heating Only . . . 172
9.3.3 Case C: Suppression of Conduction Only . . . 173
9.3.4 Case D: Heating and Suppression of Conduction . . . 174
9.3.5 Comparing Cases A-D . . . 176
9.4 Summary and Discussion . . . 179

10 Concluding Remarks **180**
10.1 Summary and Conclusions . . . 180
10.1.1 Hard X-ray Observations . . . 180
10.1.2 Combined Fokker-Planck and Hydrodynamic Modeling . . . 183
10.2 Future Work . . . 184

Appendices **187**

A *RHESSI* Data Analysis Tools **187**
A.1 Imaging Spectroscopy Flow Chart . . . 187
A.2 Notes for Imaging Spectroscopy . . . 190
A.3 Spectral Analysis for 2002-04-30 M1.4 Flare . . . 192
A.3.1 Spatially Integrated Spectra . . . 192
A.3.2 Spatially Resolved (Imaged) Spectra . . . 195
A.4 Effects of Pulse Pileup . . . 196
A.4.1 Pileup Effects for 2003-11-13 M1.7 Flare . . . 197
A.4.2 Pileup Effects on Imaging Spectroscopy for 2003-10-29 X10 Flare . . 198
A.5 *RHESSI* Simulation Tool and Its Applications . . . 200

B Notes for Analyzing 2003-10-29 X10 Flare **202**
B.1 Coalignment of Images from Different Instruments . . . 202
B.2 Derivation of Footpoint Fluxes from Asymmetric Column Densities . . . 204
B.3 Estimation of Column Densities in Loop Legs . . . 205

C Coulomb Loss and Diffusion in Warm Plasmas **208**
C.1 Coulomb Loss in Warm Plasmas . . . 208
C.2 Coulomb Diffusion in Warm Plasmas . . . 210
C.3 Implementation of Coulomb Loss and Diffusion . . . 211
C.4 Thermalization Test of Injected Distribution . . . 214

List of **215**
Tables . . . 215
Figures . . . 216

Bibliography **219**

Index **227**
Author Index . . . 227
Subject Index . . . 229