



3D MHD numerical experiments of reconnection in twisted dipolar flaring regions

Mag Selwa (1), Clare Parnell (1), Mark Linton (2), and Richard DeVore (2)

(1) School of Mathematics and Statistics, University of St Andrews, North Haugh, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9SS, UK, (2) Naval Research Laboratory, 4555 Overlook Ave SW, Washington DC 20375, USA

We investigate, by means of 3D MHD experiments, the interaction of twisted coronal magnetic loops. The experiments are initialized with two dipoles anchored in the photosphere. A kinematic rotational motion is applied to the central parts of the dipolar regions at the photosphere so that a flux tube within each dipole becomes twisted. Experiments are performed for the different magnetic field topologies leading to different contact angles during the reconnection process. We search for magnetic topological features and compare the different cases with the results of Linton, Dahlburg & Antiochos (2001) for cylindrical twisted flux tubes and observations of flares in different magnetic topologies.