Flares from Kepler: an Empirical Flare Template from the M dwarf GJ 1243

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GJ 1243, M4









starspot removed with median

Flares By EYE (FBEYE)

IDL code



- Pick flare start/stop times
- Assign classifications
- Help train "autofinder"

github.com/jradavenport/FBeye



Large Flare Sample!

- **6107 unique flares**, spanning 300 days of data most for any star, besides the Sun!
- 15% flares are "complex" higher % for large energy flares
- wide energy range: Log E = 28-33 erg large solar flares around 1E32 erg

Hawley et al. (2014) Davenport et al. (2014)

No correlation between flares & starspot



Hawley et al. (2014)

Flare Template: Study Morphology





Energy budget: rise=20%, decay1=41%, decay2=39%



Complex Flare Fitting



Some flares not well fit by template

of Flare Components

Flare Peak Order

Flare Energy Distribution

For GJ 1243, I'm not sure we can tell the difference... too many flares!

As Christoffer Karoff said in introduction

But: are there extreme/edge cases where each model is very clear?

Some new(ish) work

THE KEPLER CATALOG OF STELLAR FLARES

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ABSTRACT

A homogeneous search for stellar flares has been performed using every available Kepler light curve. An iterative light curve de-trending approach was used to filter out both astrophysical and systematic variability to detect flares. The flare recovery completeness has also been computed throughout each light curve using artificial flare injection tests, and the tools for this work have been made publicly available. The final sample contains 851,168 candidate flare events recovered above the 68% completeness threshold, which were detected from 4041 stars, or 1.9% of the stars in the Kepler database. The average flare energy detected is ~10³⁵ erg. The net fraction of flare stars increases with g-i color, or decreasing stellar mass. For stars in this sample with previously measured rotation periods, the total relative flare luminosity is compared to the Rossby number. A tentative detection of flare activity saturation for low-mass stars with rapid rotation below a Rossby number of ~0.03 is found. A power law decay in flare activity with Rossby number is found with a slope of -1, shallower than typical measurements for X-ray activity decay with Rossby number.

1. INTRODUCTION

Flares occur on nearly all main sequence stars with outer convective envelopes as a generic result of magnetic reconnection (Petterson 1980). These events ensure as a means for constraining the age of field stars (e.g. Parsamyan 1976, 1995).

The duration of a star's life that it produces frequent large spots and flares may dramatically affect planetary,

Flare Activity vs. Rossby Number

Flare Activity vs. Rossby Number

Evolution with Spectral Type?

Work in Progress: Flare(t,M)

Flare Frequency Distribution - Power law

Automated & Human agree well

Flare Frequency Distribution - Power /aw

Flare Frequency Distribution - Power $/_{a_W}$

Activity Cycles

See also S-index, Ca II H&K, TSI, etc...

Activity Cycles from Flares

Flare rate varies by an **order of magnitude** between active/quiet Sun!

This is a goal of mine in 2017(ish)

Can statistics save us? (large samples, careful fitting)

Summary

- empirical template!
- useful for deconstructing
- QPP's, odd morphologies?

- Homogeneous sample of flare rates & energy distributions
- Breaks in power law
- Evolution with rotation/Rossby number
- Saturation regime (?)
- Flares useful metric for magnetic activity level
- activity cycles?