M17c HINODE SOT OBSERVATIONS OF FLARE RIBBONS

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The SOT instrument on Hinode has observed many flares of all sizes already, from micro-flares up to the X-class flares of December 6 and 13, 2006. The most dramatic movies are taken in chromospheric Ca II H, and these show flare ribbons, chromospheric evaporation, loops, post-flare coronal rain, and sometimes filament activations and ejections. The G-band photospheric movies also show flare brightenings and occasionally persisting ribbons in the larger events. The SOT observations are unprecedented in their high angular resolution (0.2 arcseconds) and their simultaneous magnetic measurements with slightly lower resolution (0.3 - 0.6 arcseconds, depending on the observing mode). So far, only small events have been recorded with high time resolution, 30 seconds or better. In this poster we show examples and movies of flare ribbons and coaligned magnetograms. We address the issue of whether the ribbon emission occurs in the upper photosphere or higher up, where field inclination may cause spatial offsets between the magnetic footpoints and the emission sites.